



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Knesset to vote on accords September 20

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli parliament (Knesset) will vote on the peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sept. 20, Health Minister Chaim Ramon said Saturday. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will give a speech, to be followed by a debate and vote on the Palestinian autonomy accord, the minister told Israel Radio. Mr. Ramon said the parliamentary session, which had been due to take place on Tuesday, had been put back because of Mr. Rabin's trip to Washington to sign the accord and the Jewish new year celebrations, on Sept. 15 to 18. Mr. Rabin's Labour Party coalition government can count on securing a majority of 61 out of 120 members of parliament in its favour, with the support of 44 Labour deputies, 12 from the left-wing Meretz Party, three from the Communist Party and two from the Arab Democratic Party. Unhappy to push through such a decision on Israeli-Arab relations by using the support of Arab deputies, premier is counting on the abstention or eventual support of six members of the ultra-orthodox Shas party, which is part of his coalition. Two Shas deputies recently resigned after being charged with misappropriation of public funds.

Qadhafi dismisses ultimatum on Lockerbie

BONN (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was quoted Saturday as dismissing a Western ultimatum to hand over for trial two Libyans wanted by Britain on suspicion of carrying out the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing, German Sat 1 television, in a transcript of an interview with Colonel Qadhafi to be broadcast on Sunday, quoted him as saying earlier this week that "these medieval decisions are outdated." The language of warnings, threats and ultimatums is absolutely unacceptable. Despite Col. Qadhafi's uncompromising language, there have been signs in recent weeks of progress in the dispute over who bombed Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland, killing 270. A Scottish lawyer engaged by Libya has said the suspects are ready to stand trial if they are sure it will be fair and if sanctions against Libya are dropped before they surrender. (see page 2). Britain is unlikely to accept such a demand. But the new draft resolution would suspend sanctions if the two men were turned over and Libya cooperated with a French enquiry into the 1989 bombing of a UTA flight over Niger in which 171 died. Col. Qadhafi said Libya was already fulfilling the terms of U.N. Resolution 731 by cooperating with judicial inquiries.

Volume 17 Number 5407

AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1993, RABIE' AL AWAL 25, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Arafat, Rabin to attend White House signing

Clinton hails Middle East peace breakthrough

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — For years bitter enemies, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will stand side by side Monday at the White House for the signing of a peace agreement.

"We're living in truly revolutionary times," President Bill Clinton declared Saturday as he prepared to host the first public meeting between an Israeli leader and the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which Israel has officially considered "terrorist."

"Israel and the PLO will come to the White House to sign a courageous and historic peace accord" that will be "the first step in replacing war with peace and giving the children of the Middle East a chance to grow up to a normal life," Mr. Clinton said in his weekly radio address.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami confirmed that the Israeli prime minister would attend the ceremony but it was not clear whether he or Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would sign the document giving limited self-rule to Palestinian. In Tunis an official of the PLO said Mr. Arafat would sign if Mr. Rabin did so.

If Mr. Peres signed, then the



Palestinians holding a Palestinian flag Saturday celebrate the agreement formalised one day earlier of mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (AFP photo)

number two in the PLO delegation would sign, the official added.

He did not name the number two but it is widely expected to be Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), one of the PLO's Executive Committee and

the man who masterminded the PLO's secret negotiations with Israel.

Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's veteran "foreign minister," has reservations about the self-rule agreement and has told his friends that he does not want to

sign it.

PLO officials said they believed Mr. Rabin, Mr. Arafat and U.S. President Clinton would eventually sign the document.

PLO supporters hope the sight of Mr. Arafat being treated as an equal of Mr. Rabin by President

Clinton, will help boost support for the controversial accord among Palestinians.

"I am confirming the fact that Mr. Rabin will be flying to Washington to participate in the ceremony on the White House lawn on Monday," Mr. Ben-Ami said.

A senior official said it was not certain Mr. Rabin would sign the deal or shake hands with Mr. Arafat.

"The details of Rabin's participation have not been worked out yet," said the official.

Mr. Ben-Ami said Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres would leave Israel for Washington Sunday.

In Houston, Texas, Mr. Clinton said the signing of the agreement opened the way for normal life to resume again in the Middle East.

But Mr. Clinton, elated that at the last minute Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat will attend Monday's ceremony in Washington, cautioned that the peace agreement was just the first step to peace in the troubled region.

He said the biggest contribution the United States could make after the signing was to ensure the peace process kept going.

"I think it (the signing cere-

(Continued on page 5)

King expects progress in all tracks of peace negotiations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that he expects progress in all other tracks of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations now that Israel and the Palestinians have worked out an agreement.

The King, who is on a private visit to Britain, said in two television interviews that Jordan, which has been holding back the formalisation of an agenda with Israel, now hopes to endorse the document.

The King said the idea of a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians was too early to be discussed. It should be brought up "when the Palestinians exercise their free choice," he said.

The King, who visited Syrian President Hafez Al Assad three weeks ago, said Syria was also committed to resolving its problems with Israel and achieving a peace settlement.

Asked whether he would visit Israel, the King said: "We hope that the land will not be occupied for a long time and also hope that there will be

peace among all concerned parties."

He also expressed hope that the Palestinians would remain united at this crucial stage in history.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday he hopes to reach agreement with Jordan next week to complete "a triangle" of peaceful coexistence.

Mr. Peres said on ABC television that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement to be signed on Monday in Washington meant that "the entire fabric of the Middle East was and has been changed."

He referred to Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan as "a triangle" and said the three should live together peacefully.

"Today, we are trying to have an understanding between two angles, the Palestinians and the Israelis, and the Jordanians, because I hope next week we are going to have twins — an agreement with the Jordanians," Mr. Peres said.

He said the best solution

would be if all three came together economically, but each remained separately as nations.

"But the other possibilities are a confederation between the Jordanians and the Palestinians, which is the most natural thing to happen, and I won't exclude even a confederation between the Palestinians and the Israelis."

Jordan has said it could ratify a pact with Israel soon after the PLO-Israeli deal is signed in Washington on Monday, not at the same time.

"Jordan may agree on the agenda as soon as the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is signed but it won't be simultaneous," said Marwan Muasher, the Jordanian spokesman at peace talks.

Dr. Muasher said from Washington that there were still issues to be agreed with Israel.

"We're not talking about a peace treaty but on an agenda that includes issues that will be discussed on the Israeli-Jordanian track."

Arafat to visit France in 2 weeks

TUNIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand has invited Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to visit France and Mr. Arafat will go within two weeks, spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo told reporters.

Israel asks Oslo to continue as mediator

OSLO (AFP) — Israel has asked Norway to continue its role as mediator in talks to end decades of enmity between the Jewish state and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Norway's Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst said early Saturday. He said that holding "new talks in Oslo had not been excluded," adding that the Israeli government had asked Norway to "continue its role as mediator in the historic accords."

200 due in Cairo for police training

CAIRO (AFP) — Around 200 Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip will arrive in Cairo next week for training as officers in a future Palestinian police force, Palestinian officials said here Saturday. They will be joined by a number of Egyptian-based volunteers who are veterans of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), they said.

Southern students riot in Khartoum

KHARTOUM (R) — Police in Khartoum fired teargas to disperse rioting displaced students from war-ravaged southern Sudan demanding re-allocation to other schools, witnesses said on Sunday. Riot police were called in when hundreds of primary and high school pupils went on a rampage on Saturday, smashing and overturning cars in the capital. No casualties were reported. Hundreds of schoolchildren, many of them girls, had besieged the Khartoum state education offices to enquire about their redistribution to other schools. Trouble started after they found no lists had been displayed at local offices as promised.

Phony U.S. visas sold to Egyptians

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials say they found a ring selling fake, photocopied American visas to Egyptians, including followers of a Muslim cleric accused of "terrorism," the Washington Post reported Saturday. However, unnamed officials cited by the newspaper said they had no evidence linking those receiving the visas to the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Israelis kill 2 in Ramallah

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinians and wounded another 17 during a demonstration against the Palestinian autonomy agreement on the occupied West Bank on Saturday, a correspondent reported.

The deaths in the town of Ramallah were the first since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreed to recognise each other on Thursday. They signed recognition accords Friday.

Nidal Abul Al, 21, was hit in the heart and Iyad Abdul Tamimi in the head as troops opened fire after being stoned by demonstrators, witnesses said. They died on their way to hospital.

The army declared the area a closed military zone.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) called the protest against the agreement to launch autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The army wounded 13 people on the Gaza Strip Friday as fundamentalists protested the agreement, which is due to be signed in Washington on Monday.

Violence also erupted when police blocked an East Jerusalem demonstration of several hundred Palestinians in favour of the accord, said a photographer whose car was smashed up. Palestinians threw stones, scuffles broke out and police fired teargas to break up the march.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad called a strike in the occupied territories for Monday to protest the signing of the agreement at the White House.

Islamic Jihad distributed tracts in Gaza Saturday urging people "to hoist black flags in protest at a black day for the Palestinian people."

The two deaths brought to 1,118 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli bullets since the intifada began in December 1987, according to an AFP toll.

Tony Walker, a journalist for the London Financial Times and Melbourne Age, was shot in the calf during Saturday's clash, hospital sources said.

In East Jerusalem paramilitary border police fired teargas during a march by some 2,000 supporters of the Fatah wing of the PLO. Police said they arrested eight people.

On Friday police had looked on when Fatah members display-

(Continued on page 5)



Supporters of the Hamas group throw stones at Israeli soldiers in Gaza City during protest demonstrations Friday (AFP photo)

Hamas requests Yemen to host Palestinian reconciliation talks

Combined agency dispatches

SANAA — The hardline Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, called on Yemen to host Palestinian reconciliation talks to narrow rifts created by the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, Radio Sanaa reported on Saturday.

The radio said a delegation from the fundamentalist Palestinian group headed by Musa Abu Marzuq made the call during talks in Sanaa with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The report in Arabic did not mention PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat by name but indicated all Palestinian groups would be invited.

Mr. Abu Marzuq, the Damascus-based head of Hamas' political bureau, asked President Saleh to "host a Palestinian meeting in Sanaa for a dialogue among the Palestinians ... and preempt plots by the enemies of the Palestinian people to sow sedition and conflict among their ranks."

Mr. Saleh last week gave his support to Mr. Arafat when he visited Sanaa on a tour of Arab capitals to muster backing for his accord with Israel.

Yemen has traditionally been a strong Arafat supporter.

Hamas, which has its main bastion in Gaza, fiercely opposes Mr. Arafat's plan.

A key test of the deal will be whether Mr. Arafat can control Hamas and other hardliners who demand nothing less than a Palestinian state in all the occupied territories.

The Yemeni news agency (SABA) quoted Mr. Saleh as

affirming Yemen's support for the Palestinians "in all their choices of movement towards regaining their legitimate rights and achieving a just and lasting peace that would bring stability and security to the Middle East."

Hamas has joined calls by Damascus-based Palestinian groups to sabotage the accord with Israel. They have ignored Mr. Arafat's call to end the six-year-old Palestinian uprising.

Mr. Arafat often visits Yemen for talks with officials and inspection of Palestinian training camps. Thousands of PLO fighters were redeployed in camps in Yemen after forced out of Lebanon in the early 1980s.

Palestinian and Arab hardliners Saturday denounced the mutual recognition by the PLO and Israel and the pact for Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

Some 400 Palestinians staged a sit-in in front of the PLO's office in Damascus to protest the policies of Mr. Arafat.

In a statement to AFP, the demonstrators said "Arafat and his team have committed a crime against the Palestinian people by recognising the Zionist presence and concluding the Gaza-Jericho accord."

"Arafat and his team do not represent the Palestinian people and cannot impose their decisions and agreements on the people," said the statement, adding that the PLO chairman was "a threat to the Palestinian cause and Arab states."

The head of Syria's ruling Baath Party, Abdullah Al Ahmar, accused Israel of wanting

to "circumvent" the Middle East peace process.

"Syria seeks a comprehensive peace and clings to its rights and will not make concessions over the occupied territories," the official SANA news agency quoted him as saying.

Damascus Radio said Middle East peace could not be achieved without the will of all the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli talks.

"Israel is only raising (the possibility of) partial and conditional withdrawals which, like separate solutions, cannot lead to peace," it said.

Lebanese Defence Minister Mohsen Dallal, who is pro-Syrian, said in Beirut the PLO-Israeli accord would fail if Israel's negotiations with Lebanon and Syria remain deadlocked.

In Baghdad, the General Union of Palestinian Teachers in Iraq branded the accord as "a new plot" which fell short of Palestinian aspirations.

In Amman, the General Federation of Arab Writers urged opposition to the "catastrophic agreement" and the unveiling of the dangers and repercussions of its implementation.

Ahmad Jamal, a member of the politburo of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the factions opposing the accord are planning a top-level meeting in the next few days to draw up "a strategy to wreck Israel's agreement with the PLO."

Taysir Qubaa, who sits on the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's politburo, said the meeting will likely convene in Damascus.

Regent: Jordan backs moves that serve Arab, Palestinian rights

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will continue to extend support for any decision that serves and safeguards Arab and Palestinian interests, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Saturday.

The Regent, in a meeting with newspaper columnists and commentators at the Basman Palace, outlined how Jordan viewed the series of political events that unfolded since Aug. 20, when Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) announced a secret agreement on Palestinian autonomy to start in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank towns of Jericho.

The meeting was clearly prompted by the fierce debate in the media, pitting opponents and supporters of the Israel-PLO agreement passing judgement of the accord and going to extreme lengths to defend their views.

"Readers are not a testing ground and they are not interested in the emotions of this or that writer," the Regent said, stressing that newspaper commentaries should reflect higher national interests rather than the sentiments and wishes of the writer.

As long as the writer places higher national interests above



personal bitterness, frustration and preoccupations with life and what is going on, he will be guarded from shifting positions, he said.

"The supreme national interests have been set, thanks to the guidance and protection of His Majesty King Hussein," the Regent said.

"If our writers and journalists abide by them, they will also be avoiding sectarianism, jingoism and... which sometimes surface in some writings."

"Some of the writings inflict extreme damage on Jordan's national interests," he said.

"If a writer believes that the Gaza-Jericho proposal as

treason, that does not mean that he has the right to generalise and impose his views on the readers," he said. "The same applies to people who describe Jordan's position on the plan as one of shock and suspicion of conspiracy."

Jordan, which recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in 1974 and severed legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in 1988, does not harbour any territorial ambitions, he said.

"When we talk about the Gaza-Jericho first plan, we only talk about the great hope that this agreement would contribute to achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," he said.

The Regent briefly reviewed the commitment of the Hashemite family to Palestine and Arab causes. "We are at the base of Abdullah Ben Ali Hussein, the founding grandfather who loved Palestine and fought for it... of Talal (Ben Abdullah) who defended Arab honour in Palestine... and of Ali Hussein, who dedicated his life to Palestine and the rights of the Arab and Muslim people wherever and wherever they may be..." he said.

(Continued on page 5)

More countries endorse accord

Combined agency dispatches

CHINA SATURDAY reacted favourably to the Middle East peace accord, the last permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and the last major Asian country to comment on the agreement.

Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore and Bangladesh also praised the signing of the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to recognise each other in a bid to end more than four decades of bloodshed.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman was quoted Saturday as saying by the official Xinhua news agency that China expressed its "appreciation" for the accord.

"We hope that it can be a new starting point towards the end of the Arab and Israeli dispute," the spokesman said, adding that the accord was a step towards "peace and justice in the Middle East."

He also said the agreement was an important step towards a solution to the Palestinian question, a cause China has long supported,

notwithstanding its establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel in January 1992.

Vietnam also Saturday praised the agreement as an "important first step" towards peace in the Middle East that could pave the way for a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Hanoi.

Indonesian President Suharto hailed the accord as an important breakthrough and hoped it could lead to an overall settlement of the Palestinian question, officials said in Jakarta.

Although Mr. Suharto said he realised the Palestinian people still faced "a long journey," he expressed hope the agreement could lead to "a comprehensive, fundamental and just settlement in line with the aspiration of the Palestinian people to have its own motherland and sovereign government."

On Friday, Japan, India, South Korea, the Philippines and Thailand also welcomed the news of the historic agreement.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has welcomed the mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO as "a

historic step towards peace," the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The agency said King Fahd made the remark in a telephone conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said the mutual recognition by Israel and the PLO was a historic achievement which deserved world-wide support.

The United Nations was ready to assist the parties as they moved towards a just and lasting Middle East peace, he added.

The Iranian press roundly denounced the recognition agreement and underlined the opposition to the Palestinian autonomy accord throughout the Muslim world.

A huge banner headline printed in capital letters on the front page of the English-language Tehran Times read: "Blackest day," followed by the headings "Arafat under threat" and "Arafat ignores key issues," in references to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The left-leaning Salam daily printed a front-page story on "the

(Continued on page 5)

West wants to raise cash for self-rule

LONDON (R) — Rich nations have concluded that they must try to make a financial go of a new Palestinian entity in Israeli-occupied territories, despite resistance so far over who will contribute what, western diplomats say.

Although the accord on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is only a first step, key Western states see it as the best hope for an end to the long-running Middle East conflict and do not want to see it lost through stalling.

"What is important is that there is agreement that an international effort is needed to make (the accord) stick," one diplomat said. Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are expected to sign the agreement in Washington on Monday.

The territories, their economy badly retarded after 26 years of military occupation, will need billions of dollars in aid and investment.

But the demand has come at a time of recession in the developed world. In addition, Europe and the United States already face big calls on their aid budgets from the former communist states of Eastern Europe and the ex-Soviet Union.

Even the faded wealth of the Gulf Arab oil states is not what it was since Saudi Arabia and Kuwait footed a \$120 billion bill for the 1991 Gulf war. Those states have also not forgiven Palestinian leaders for their support of Iraq in that war.

In the short term, the United States is trying to assemble an emergency fund of \$590 million to cover start-up costs, with the Gulf states being asked for some \$200 million, according to diplomats and Palestinian sources.

Longer-term aid is expected to be coordinated through the World Bank, which in a recent draft of a \$4.3 billion economic development plan for the territories, spread over eight years or more.

The plan will be discussed in Washington on Sept. 20 by officials of the PLO, Israel and Arab states. The PLO is expected to propose a much more ambitious plan for \$11.6 billion by the year 2000.

While Gulf states have made no public commitments on any aid, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd predicted after a trip to the region this week that they would eventually contribute, despite their differences with the PLO.

"It is accepted here, as everywhere, that a settlement will need support... part of that support will need to come from the countries of the Gulf," he told a news conference in Saudi Arabia.

But Palestinian and Western officials stressed that they were looking for the aid burden to be distributed around the world to bring in European countries, the United States, Japan and Israel as well as the Gulf states.

"Palestine is an international responsibility," said Afif Safieh, PLO representative in London. "I am not happy with those who think it is up to the Arab states only."

The European Community's Executive Commission has proposed a \$600 million aid plan for the occupied territories, to be spread over five years.

The commission hopes the plan will be given broad political blessing at an informal meeting of EC foreign ministers in Belgium over the weekend.

Scandinavian countries last week pledged \$140 million in aid over the next four years.

Japan is also planning to offer aid for the self-rule project, according to an unconfirmed report by the Kyodo News Agency. It said this would be in keeping with Tokyo's global role but gave no figures.

An Arab League report released last week said the Palestinian economy "is under strong pressure due to the restrictive policies of the occupation against economic activities, such pressure has led to the collapse of traditional economic activities without any encouragement of growth in new sectors."

While flying from Washington to an event in California, Mr. Clinton spoke from air force one with some of his predecessors and asked them to attend the signing ceremony.

Former presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush — who both spearheaded efforts that produced breakthroughs in Middle East peace efforts — accepted the invitations.

General Ford said he could not attend the ceremony, but plans to show up for a dinner that night. Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan turned down the offer.

Ms. Myers said there was likely to be a series of day-long activities built around the main event — the signing ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

European Commission President Jacques Delors and Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes will represent the European Community at Monday's White House ceremony, the European Community (EC) said Friday.

Mr. Claes will attend because his country currently holds the EC's six-monthly rotating presidency.

Palestinians to benefit from Gulf aid fund

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Palestinians in the occupied territories are expected to benefit from a \$10 billion aid fund set up by wealthy Gulf states to finance development in poor Arab countries, diplomats said.

"I think Palestinians are now the most eligible for assistance from that fund following their agreement with Israel. I believe Gulf states realise this fact," a Gulf-based Arab diplomat said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel are due to sign in Washington Monday an agreement giving Palestinians autonomy in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho on the occupied West Bank.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have pledged \$6.5 billion for the fund, set up after the 1991 Gulf war.

GCC states promised to set up the fund to support the economies of poor Arab states but have made clear only member states carrying out reforms would be eligible for assistance, to be supervised by the World Bank.

Their purpose is to encourage Arab states to press on with reforms and expand the private sector after nearly \$100 billion in development aid over the past two decades produced no results.

Wealthy Gulf states cut off funding to the PLO after its leader, Yasser Arafat, supported Iraq during the Gulf war, but have approved the accord.

"Gulf states have made clear the fund would help all Arab states which meet its conditions concerning reforms and efficient use of the money," a Gulf economist said. "I do not see any reason why Palestinians can not benefit when aid in the territories would be under international supervision."

A mortar shell fired by militias also thumped into the Pakistani base near the October 21st Road, scene of most clashes which have killed 48 U.N. soldiers and hundreds of Somalis since early June.

It was a familiar sequence of events in south Mogadishu, where Gen. Aided's faction says

the difficulty of the mission was underscored Thursday when U.S. and Pakistani troops fired on a Somali mob including women and children, killing up to 100 people, after the mob joined militiamen in attacking the peacekeepers.

A U.N. spokesman said one Pakistani was killed and three Americans and two Pakistanis injured in the heaviest fighting since American troops landed in Somalia last December.

Mr. Byrd read an Associated Press report of the fighting as he demanded a congressional voice in the future of the Somali mission. "What has to happen before we shake the consciences of our representatives in Congress?"

Mr. Byrd, chairman of the appropriations committee, on Wednesday introduced legislation that would give Congress veto power over continuing the Somali operation.

Late Thursday, the Senate resumed debate on Somalia after the leadership reached agreement on a toned down version of Mr. Byrd's amendment, a non-binding "sense of Congress" that states Congress "believes the president should by Nov. 15, 1993, seek and receive congressional authorisation in order for the deployment of U.S. forces to Somalia to continue."

The compromise was backed by Senate majority leader George Mitchell (Democrat), minority leader Bob Dole (Republican), and Armed Services Committee

Chairman Sam Nunn (Democrat). Mr. Dole and Mr. Nunn have both questioned a continued U.S. military presence in Somalia.

The statement, to be included in the military budget bill for fiscal year 1994, also asks that the White House provide a detailed report on the situation in Somalia by Oct. 15.

"The Senate has an obligation to take some action one way or another simply because it involves money and it involves blood," Mr. Byrd said.

The operation is costing at least \$11 million a month, he said, adding, "I'm not for kicking in billions of dollars and putting troops in harm's way for a poorly conceived U.N. mission."

The Clinton administration opposed the original Byrd amendment and a number of senators voiced misgivings about pulling out.

"It is true that no direct national interest is involved," said Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee. "But now that we are there, all the indirect national interests are at stake — U.S. leadership, prestige, credibility and self-respect."

Gen. Mitch McConnell, ranking Republican on the Senate Appropriations Foreign Operations Sub-Committee, told reporters he was concerned about setting deadlines for troop withdrawals. But he said the Byrd

Aided wants talks with U.N.

Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — Somali aides of fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aided said Saturday that he wanted to talk peace with U.N. forces hunting him for murder.

But in the streets of Mogadishu General Aided's militias kept up a campaign of mayhem, ambushing a U.N. convoy of French Foreign Legion troops.

"We want to talk with UNOSOM (the U.N. operation in Somalia) but UNSOOM is not capable of solving the matter peacefully," Aided deputy Mohammed Hassan Awale told reporters in Mogadishu.

U.N. officials said the French troops returned fire and pursued their attackers into a building, killing one Somali and wounding another.

Two Somali gunmen also attacked U.N. troops holed up in the massive compound in central Mogadishu where they have fortified themselves for the last three months.

A mortar shell fired by militias also thumped into the Pakistani base near the October 21st Road, scene of most clashes which have killed 48 U.N. soldiers and hundreds of Somalis since early June.

It was a familiar sequence of events in south Mogadishu, where Gen. Aided's faction says

the difficulty of the mission was underscored Thursday when U.S. and Pakistani troops fired on a Somali mob including women and children, killing up to 100 people, after the mob joined militiamen in attacking the peacekeepers.

A U.N. spokesman said one Pakistani was killed and three Americans and two Pakistanis injured in the heaviest fighting since American troops landed in Somalia last December.

Mr. Byrd read an Associated Press report of the fighting as he demanded a congressional voice in the future of the Somali mission. "What has to happen before we shake the consciences of our representatives in Congress?"

Mr. Byrd, chairman of the appropriations committee, on Wednesday introduced legislation that would give Congress veto power over continuing the Somali operation.

Late Thursday, the Senate resumed debate on Somalia after the leadership reached agreement on a toned down version of Mr. Byrd's amendment, a non-binding "sense of Congress" that states Congress "believes the president should by Nov. 15, 1993, seek and receive congressional authorisation in order for the deployment of U.S. forces to Somalia to continue."

The compromise was backed by Senate majority leader George Mitchell (Democrat), minority leader Bob Dole (Republican), and Armed Services Committee

Chairman Sam Nunn (Democrat). Mr. Dole and Mr. Nunn have both questioned a continued U.S. military presence in Somalia.

The statement, to be included in the military budget bill for fiscal year 1994, also asks that the White House provide a detailed report on the situation in Somalia by Oct. 15.

"The Senate has an obligation to take some action one way or another simply because it involves money and it involves blood," Mr. Byrd said.

The operation is costing at least \$11 million a month, he said, adding, "I'm not for kicking in billions of dollars and putting troops in harm's way for a poorly conceived U.N. mission."

The Clinton administration opposed the original Byrd amendment and a number of senators voiced misgivings about pulling out.

"It is true that no direct national interest is involved," said Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee. "But now that we are there, all the indirect national interests are at stake — U.S. leadership, prestige, credibility and self-respect."

Gen. Mitch McConnell, ranking Republican on the Senate Appropriations Foreign Operations Sub-Committee, told reporters he was concerned about setting deadlines for troop withdrawals. But he said the Byrd

proposal might "do the president a favour by crystallising his thinking."

"He may have to step up to the plate and give us a plan."



Somalis carry a child who was critically injured Friday when a U.S. truck was destroyed by a

rocket on the road which had been the scene of fighting between Mohammed Farah Aided's supporters and U.N. troops (AFP photo)

Aided wants talks with U.N.

Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — Somali aides of fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aided said Saturday that he wanted to talk peace with U.N. forces hunting him for murder.

But in the streets of Mogadishu General Aided's militias kept up a campaign of mayhem, ambushing a U.N. convoy of French Foreign Legion troops.

"We want to talk with UNOSOM (the U.N. operation in Somalia) but UNSOOM is not capable of solving the matter peacefully," Aided deputy Mohammed Hassan Awale told reporters in Mogadishu.

U.N. officials said the French troops returned fire and pursued their attackers into a building, killing one Somali and wounding another.

Two Somali gunmen also attacked U.N. troops holed up in the massive compound in central Mogadishu where they have fortified themselves for the last three months.

A mortar shell fired by militias also thumped into the Pakistani base near the October 21st Road, scene of most clashes which have killed 48 U.N. soldiers and hundreds of Somalis since early June.

It was a familiar sequence of events in south Mogadishu, where Gen. Aided's faction says

the difficulty of the mission was underscored Thursday when U.S. and Pakistani troops fired on a Somali mob including women and children, killing up to 100 people, after the mob joined militiamen in attacking the peacekeepers.

A U.N. spokesman said one Pakistani was killed and three Americans and two Pakistanis injured in the heaviest fighting since American troops landed in Somalia last December.

Mr. Byrd read an Associated Press report of the fighting as he demanded a congressional voice in the future of the Somali mission. "What has to happen before we shake the consciences of our representatives in Congress?"

Mr. Byrd, chairman of the appropriations committee, on Wednesday introduced legislation that would give Congress veto power over continuing the Somali operation.

Late Thursday, the Senate resumed debate on Somalia after the leadership reached agreement on a toned down version of Mr. Byrd's amendment, a non-binding "sense of Congress" that states Congress "believes the president should by Nov. 15, 1993, seek and receive congressional authorisation in order for the deployment of U.S. forces to Somalia to continue."

The compromise was backed by Senate majority leader George Mitchell (Democrat), minority leader Bob Dole (Republican), and Armed Services Committee

Chairman Sam Nunn (Democrat). Mr. Dole and Mr. Nunn have both questioned a continued U.S. military presence in Somalia.

The statement, to be included in the military budget bill for fiscal year 1994, also asks that the White House provide a detailed report on the situation in Somalia by Oct. 15.

"The Senate has an obligation to take some action one way or another simply because it involves money and it involves blood," Mr. Byrd said.

The operation is costing at least \$11 million a month, he said, adding, "I'm not for kicking in billions of dollars and putting troops in harm's way for a poorly conceived U.N. mission."

The Clinton administration opposed the original Byrd amendment and a number of senators voiced misgivings about pulling out.

"It is true that no direct national interest is involved," said Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee. "But now that we are there, all the indirect national interests are at stake — U.S. leadership, prestige, credibility and self-respect."

Gen. Mitch McConnell, ranking Republican on the Senate Appropriations Foreign Operations Sub-Committee, told reporters he was concerned about setting deadlines for troop withdrawals. But he said the Byrd

Dev-Sol claims attack on former general

ISTANBUL (R) — The Dev-Sol (Revolutionary left) guerrilla group has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack against a former Turkish army general in Istanbul, Turkish newspapers reported on Saturday.

They said the newspapers received a phone call from someone saying Dev-Sol was behind the attack against retired General Hussein Dogan Ozgocmen, 77, who commanded Turkey's first army from 1973 to 1975. The newspapers reported that the caller said the attack had been carried out to avenge the killing of Kurdish Deputy Mehmet Sincar, gunned down last week in the southeastern Turkish city of Batman. Gen. Ozgocmen was recovering at Gümüşsuyu military hospital after being hit in the mouth.

Dutchman hurls smoke bomb at Ciller convoy

MOSCOW (R) — A Dutchman hurled a smoke bomb at a convoy of cars accompanying visiting Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on her way to a Moscow airport, ITAR-TASS news agency said Friday. TASS said Erik Veeda, a 28-year-old Dutch citizen who came to Moscow at the invitation of an arts centre, was detained for throwing the smoke bomb, but it gave no reason for Thursday's attack. Ms. Ciller was returning home after a two-day official trip to the Russian capital during which she met President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and other Russian leaders.

Two policemen killed in southern Egypt

ASSIUT (AP) — Four suspected Muslim extremists shot dead two policemen Saturday as they waited for a bus in southern Egypt, authorities said. A security officer said the policemen the policemen were standing at the bus station in Dairut, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, when they came under attack. The assailants escaped. Policeman Makramallah Saber Abdul Kareem died at the scene. The other victim, Ahmed Fathi Abdul Hakim, died later in a hospital operating room during surgery to remove bullets. Dairut, just north of the provincial capital Assiut, is a Muslim extremist stronghold where several clashes have occurred involving them and police. Dairut also is where a British nurse vacationing in Egypt was killed last year in the first major attack on foreign tourists in the country.

Cypriot speaker accuses Britain of favouring partition

NICOSIA (AP) — The president of the House of Representatives, Alexis Galanos, Saturday accused Britain of favouring the partition of Cyprus for the sake of its military bases on the island. "The division of Cyprus is favoured by Britain because in this way the issue of the British military bases on the island, which it considers very important, is never raised," Mr. Galanos told a news conference. He added that "while giving the impression that it cares about a settlement, Britain's actions in general do not permit us to conclude they are sincere in their intentions."

Scottish lawyers in Libya to meet suspects

LONDON (AP) — Two Scottish lawyers have travelled to Libya to meet the men suspected of planning the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Television reported Friday. The BBC Reporting Scotland report said Lord Macaulay, a top Scottish defence attorney, and Alistair Duff, a 39-year-old criminal lawyer, flew to Libya within the past 48 hours. Mr. Duff told reporters Tuesday that the accused men's Libyan legal team had hired them to represent the pair, should Libya agree to their extradition to Scotland as Britain and the United States demand.

PLO is represented worldwide

TUNIS (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has just been officially recognised by Israel, has 91 missions all over the world. According to the PLO's Political Department, its de facto foreign ministry, 75 of the missions enjoy diplomatic status, most of them in developing countries. In the Arab World, the PLO missions are all "embassies" with the exception of Oman, where the PLO is not represented and Syria and Libya where it has only "bureaux." In Africa and Asia, most of its missions have embassy rank except in Japan which hosts a Palestine general delegation, half way between a bureau and an embassy. In Western Europe, the PLO has "bureaux" except for a general delegation in France and "embassies" in Greece and Austria. In Eastern Europe, PLO "embassies" dating from the cold war era have retained their status. Australia and all Latin America have PLO bureaux except Cuba and Nicaragua which have "embassies." For the past few months, the PLO has tried to save money by closing some of its missions. In particular, it withdrew from Norway and Denmark, keeping only an information office in Stockholm.

Peres interviewed on Saudi television

NICOSIA (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was interviewed on Saudi television Friday in the first ever appearance by an Israeli official on television in the kingdom's history. In the interview by the London-based Saudi station MBC, monitored here, Mr. Peres looked forward to a normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab states, saying that it would be "profitable to both sides." The interview was conducted in English with an Arabic-language voice-over.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran tells Germany it opposes 'terrorism'

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani sent a message to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Friday saying Tehran opposed "international terrorism." Tehran Radio said, Mr. Rafsanjani, in the message delivered to Mr. Kohl in Bonn by his brother Mohammad Hashemi who heads Iran's state radio and television, said the two countries should cooperate for peace in the Middle East and the Gulf region, it said. "The message, pointing to the Islamic Republic of Iran's opposition to international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, stressed the necessity of the two countries expanding their cooperation," the radio said. Iran's alleged role in the killing of four Kurdish dissident leaders in Berlin a year ago is one of the thorny issues in Tehran's generally good relations with Bonn.

Dev-Sol claims attack on former general

ISTANBUL (R) — The Dev-Sol (Revolutionary left) guerrilla group has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack against a former Turkish army general in Istanbul, Turkish newspapers reported on Saturday. They said the newspapers received a phone call from someone saying Dev-Sol was behind the attack against retired General Hussein Dogan Ozgocmen, 77, who commanded Turkey's first army from 1973 to 1975. The newspapers reported that the caller said the attack had been carried out to avenge the killing of Kurdish Deputy Mehmet Sincar, gunned down last week in the southeastern Turkish city of Batman. Gen. Ozgocmen was recovering at Gümüşsuyu military hospital after being hit in the mouth.

Dutchman hurls smoke bomb at Ciller convoy

MOSCOW (R) — A Dutchman hurled a smoke bomb at a convoy of cars accompanying visiting Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on her way to a Moscow airport, ITAR-TASS news agency said Friday. TASS said Erik Veeda, a 28-year-old Dutch citizen who came to Moscow at the invitation of an arts centre, was detained for throwing the smoke bomb, but it gave no reason for Thursday's attack. Ms. Ciller was returning home after a two-day official trip to the Russian capital during which she met President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and other Russian leaders.

Two policemen killed in southern Egypt

ASSIUT (AP) — Four suspected Muslim extremists shot dead two policemen Saturday as they waited for a bus in southern Egypt, authorities said. A security officer said the policemen the policemen were standing at the bus station in Dairut, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, when they came under attack. The assailants escaped. Policeman Makramallah Saber Abdul Kareem died at the scene. The other victim, Ahmed Fathi Abdul Hakim, died later in a hospital operating room during surgery to remove bullets. Dairut, just north of the provincial capital Assiut, is a Muslim extremist stronghold where several clashes have occurred involving them and police. Dairut also is where a British nurse vacationing in Egypt was killed last year in the first major attack on foreign tourists in the country.

Cypriot speaker accuses Britain of favouring partition

NICOSIA (AP) — The president of the House of Representatives, Alexis Galanos, Saturday accused Britain of favouring the partition of Cyprus for the sake of its military bases on the island. "The division of Cyprus is favoured by Britain because in this way the issue of the British military bases on the island, which it considers very important, is never raised," Mr. Galanos told a news conference. He added that "while giving the impression that it cares about a settlement, Britain's actions in general do not permit us to conclude they are sincere in their intentions."

Scottish lawyers in Libya to meet suspects

LONDON (AP) — Two Scottish lawyers have travelled to Libya to meet the men suspected of planning the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Television reported Friday. The BBC Reporting Scotland report said Lord Macaulay, a top Scottish defence attorney, and Alistair Duff, a 39-year-old criminal lawyer, flew to Libya within the past 48 hours. Mr. Duff told reporters Tuesday that the accused men's Libyan legal team had hired them to represent the pair, should Libya agree to their extradition to Scotland as Britain and the United States demand.

PLO is represented worldwide

TUNIS (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has just been officially recognised by Israel, has 91 missions all over the world. According to the PLO's Political Department, its de facto foreign ministry, 75 of the missions enjoy diplomatic status, most of them in developing countries. In the Arab World, the PLO missions are all "embassies" with the exception of Oman, where the PLO is not represented and Syria and Libya where it has only "bureaux." In Africa and Asia, most of its missions have embassy rank except in Japan which hosts a Palestine general delegation, half way between a bureau and an embassy. In Western Europe, the PLO has "bureaux" except for a general delegation in France and "embassies" in Greece and Austria. In Eastern Europe, PLO "embassies" dating from the cold war era have retained their status. Australia and all Latin America have PLO bureaux except Cuba and Nicaragua which have "embassies." For the past few months, the PLO has tried to save money by closing some of its missions. In particular, it withdrew from Norway and Denmark, keeping only an information office in Stockholm.

Peres interviewed on Saudi television

NICOSIA (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was interviewed on Saudi television Friday in the first ever appearance by an Israeli official on television in the kingdom's history. In the interview by the London-based Saudi station MBC, monitored here, Mr. Peres looked forward to a normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab states, saying that it would be "profitable to both sides." The interview was conducted in English with an Arabic-language voice-over.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le Monde est à Vous
18:00 News in French
19:00 Le Journal de l'histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Step by Step
21:00 The Dream Machine
22:00 News in English
22:30 "The Outsider"

PRAYER TIMES
04:54 Fajr
06:13 (Shari'a) Duha
12:35 Dhuhr
16:05 'Asr
18:52 Maghreb
20:10 'Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifala, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 64590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Saite Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623566

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assuan International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 646922
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal weather conditions will prevail, and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17 / 31
Aqaba 23 / 28
Deserts 16 / 34
Jordan Valley 22 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMBULANCE: Dr. Mohammad Al Nahawi 819213
Dr. Jamil Maraga 761449
Dr. Mubtala Habaib 819220
Dr. Jamil Jarrab 847351
First pharmacy 661912
Fordons pharmacy 788336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nadrouh pharmacy 636772
Al Salami pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Stucisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police (92, 621111, 637777)
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 630211
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 891467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 630100
Water Authority 630100
Electricity Authority 815615
Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsat 6641714
Shamsat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672779
Al-Ham, Abdali 6641446
Al-Ham, Abdali 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Jbn Sana Hospital (09)986732
Al Hilana Nodan Hospital (09)99990
ERBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27277

Ajloun typhoid cases rise to 17 — Malhas

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The number of positively diagnosed typhoid cases in Ajloun now numbers 17, and fever patients admitted to Al Iman Hospital in Ajloun and treated as typhoid cases stands at 156, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said Saturday.

Dr. Malhas told the Jordan Times that of the total number of patients treated for high fever only 18 remained at Al Iman Hospital Saturday, including the 17 people diagnosed as having typhoid.

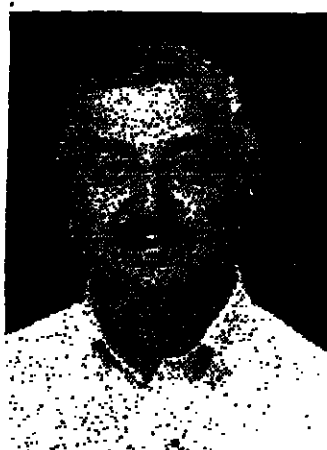
Culture tests on urine, blood and stool of the typhoid patients proved positive, requiring that they remain hospitalized under treatment for a while, said Dr. Malhas.

All the other patients suffering from high fever, except one, were discharged by Saturday, added the minister.

Dr. Malhas said only two cases of high fever were admitted to the Princess Basma hospital in Irbid, and culture tests were continuing to determine whether they are to be classified as typhoid cases.

The minister reported that six new cases of high fever were admitted Saturday to the government hospital in Jerash, nearby Ajloun.

He said these patients are also being treated as if they



Abdul Rahim Malhas

had typhoid while culture tests were underway.

Dr. Malhas has said a task force from the health ministry was dispatched to Jerash to investigate source of typhoid disease and whether it exists in the Jerash area as well.

Last Wednesday, the minister reported 15 positive typhoid cases in Ajloun of a total 127 high fever cases.

Despite the increases, he said, "the curve has a downward tendency" in Ajloun.

Dr. Malhas said all high fever cases admitted to hospitals in Jordan are being treated as typhoid cases on purely clinical grounds, but they are not classified as typhoid cases until proven so by laboratory culture tests.



Salim Kanaan's oil on canvas entitled "Money," on display at the Alia Art Gallery until Sept. 20

Student, professor juxtapose expressions

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One is the student: young, full of ideas, aspiring to change the artistic landscape of his country. The other one is his professor: set in his artistic ways and experimenting with new ideas and trends.

Together, Salam Kanaan and Amor Aouens (French) are exhibiting their works at the Alia Art Gallery in an odd juxtaposition of colours, styles and themes.

Mr. Kanaan's paintings, mostly oil on canvas, but here and there dabbed with acrylic or plaster, are in more sober tones, dealing with the serious matters of economic depression worldwide, not forgetting home of course, and the universal figure of the woman.

By contrast, Mr. Aouens' paintings, oil on canvas, are abstract, brightly coloured and give the impression of a lighter mood during the process of creation.

Part of Mr. Kanaan's paintings, musing and philosophical, have money as the central theme. Gone up in flames, with people gathered in front of huge banknotes that have lost their value, these works reflect the global depression, characteristic of our times.

The biggest part of his works, though, is that of canvases with women as the central figure. Movement and body expression.

"The woman for me is extraordinary; mother, wife.... You find in her life, she is life," says the painter with obvious veneration for the mother and wonder at the complex human being that is woman.

The paintings with women invariably have a thread crossing them with small, rectangular pieces of paper pegged on it. "They represent for the artist 'time and waiting.' Having years or mystic verses on them, these small notes represent the passage of time; the artist got the idea of using them after seeing an Algerian woman waiting in front of a mosaic mural covered with notes that she would pin down from a calendar-like notebook marked with wise words of advice.

All Mr. Kanaan's paintings are split into two levels, the bottom one representing water, as "my works are an aquarium where you

feel the freedom."

And freedom is apparent in the position the body adopts, in the gently flowing lines of the figures in the whiteness of the "life model" and in the monolithic art head, expressive without details (thus liberating the artist of constraints).

The life model deserves a longer look, for all its comparison with the Statue of Liberty and parallel between old and new art the artist is drawing, it also has a deeper meaning, one that Mr. Kanaan volunteers to explain as: "The human body eats, drinks, sleeps, but is rather unable to do things in life, is tied up (by all sorts of norms, laws, rules)."

Spending his time between France, where he has studied for the master's degree and would like to go on studying, and Jordan, the artist cannot part with either. "France is the best place to study art. It is the cultural centre of the world, from where connections are easy anywhere. I went there for impressionism and I discovered the art trends from everywhere...It enriched me, but I love Jordan; its landscape and people. And I come back all the time."

Mr. Aouens' works, of a lighter mood, are in brightly coloured, striking reds, and blues, shades of yellow, greens and pinks. They create floral patterns, stylised arabesques and geometric figures. Some have painted frames with colours and pattern complementing the overall image.

At times subtly intertwined, at others creating a maze where the imagination can roam freely, the colour strokes are equally subdued shades or bold tints.

The paintings exude coolness; no passion is involved, the artist seems to be detached from his works. If some ochre yellows could bring to mind the southern fields of France, it is only this far that any attempt at finding an identity or guessing the mood of the artist can go.

Some canvases give the impression of foetal creatures enclosed in an oppressive sac whose membrane they want to break and be free. So at least freedom is a concept uppermost on the mind of both artists and a tangential point of their otherwise different themes.

The exhibition lasts until Sept. 20.

Cuba has strong ties with Arab World, says visiting deputy prime minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Pedro Preito said here Saturday that his country maintains strong ties with the Arab Nation including Jordan and it has an interest in Arab causes, especially the Palestine question.

Speaking at a meeting with Acting Senate Speaker Bahjat Al Talhouni, Mr. Preito said Jordan has done great deal to defend Palestinian rights and Palestine, which, he said, is the central issue in the Middle East conflict.

Praising Jordan's role in various world issues, the envoy said his visit aims primarily to further bolster cooperation between Cuba and Jordan in parliamentary affairs.

In reviewing world issues with Mr. Talhouni, the Cuban official outlined the difficult circumstances Cuba was experiencing. Senator Talhouni, a former prime minister, said Jordan was interested in maintaining strong ties of friendship with the Cuban people and in launching parliamentary cooperation.

He outlined Jordan's stand vis-à-vis the Palestine question and briefed the guest on Jordan's parliamentary life.

The Cuban envoy met earlier with Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket to discuss trade and economic relations.

Mr. Preito said Cuba wanted to further these relations, adding that his country could import Jordanian-made pharmaceutical products in exchange for sugar.

In reviewing Cuban industrial development, he said Cuba is considering the prospect of orga-



Minister of Information Saturday meets with visiting Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Pedro Preito (second from left) to discuss strengthening ties between the Cuban and Jordanian people

nising a Cuban industrial fair in Amman.

Dr. Saket said Jordan and Cuba can begin trade and industrial cooperation through their respective chambers of commerce and industry which recognise the areas of joint investments and are more informed in the import export business.

The minister suggested that the Cuban government provide Jordanian businesspersons with information about Cuban industry before any mutual coopera-

tion in industrial fields can be launched.

Later at a meeting with Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar, the Cuban official said that his country wanted to open new channels in its relations with Jordan to strengthen ties of friendship between the Jordanian and Cuban people.

Mr. Preito discussed with Dr. Abu Nowar the latest political and economic developments in Cuba and the Cuban leadership's concept of promoting ties with

the Arab World.

Dr. Abu Nowar outlined Jordan's principled stand with friendly countries, stressing that the Kingdom was striving to build bridges of understanding with all nations.

Following the meeting, Mr. Preito said he was deeply satisfied with his talks with Jordanian officials.

He said Cuba hoped to see Amman and Havana coordinating their stands at international forums.

12,079 students to be accepted at vocational training schools

AMMAN (Petra) — This year the Ministry of Education will accept 12,079 students in the various vocational training institutions run by the ministry, according to Ali Nasrallah, director of Vocational Training at the ministry.

Mr. Nasrallah said that these students will be enrolled at the ministry's industrial, commercial, agricultural, nursing, hotel management, dressmaking and hair-dressing schools in various parts of the Kingdom.

He said under the new plan 36.2 per cent of the male and 21.6 per cent of the female high school

students will be receiving vocational training.

These schools, known as comprehensive schools, offer academic courses as well as vocational training, according to Mr. Nasrallah.

This year there has been a great demand to join the comprehensive schools, added Mr. Nasrallah.

He said the schools are located in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa and the Balqa governorates.

The ministry is encouraging more students to enroll in these courses through an awareness

programme conducted at schools in the various governorates, Mr. Nasrallah explained.

At the same time, he said, the ministry has organised courses for trainers in such fields as commerce, maintenance of office equipment and electronic machinery, welding, tools, agriculture, industry and dressmaking.

Last summer, 300 trainers benefited from these courses, added Mr. Nasrallah.

He said selected numbers of trainers receive advanced training in Ireland, Germany and Italy.

Ministry to allow import of most food supplies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply has agreed to allow the private sector to import most food supplies, except a select few which are imported by the ministry, to ensure their constant presence in the markets, according to Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim.

Mr. Ibrahim said the ministry would continue to import olive oil, lentils and frozen chicken in order to meet the market's demand as well as provide protection to local producers of these commodities as the ministry resorts to importing these items only when a shortage occurs.

The minister, who Saturday was commenting on demands by the Chambers of Commerce and Industry to allow the private sector to have a free hand in importing food supplies, said the door is open for merchants to import most of the foodstuffs without restrictions.

The ministry has been importing and selling sugar in the local market and is now willing to examine the prospect of allowing the private sector to import brown sugar for industrial and food processing purposes, said the minister.

Mr. Ibrahim said white sugar is still subsidised by the government and the Ministry of Supply will remain responsible for its import.

Referring to a recent memorandum he received from the Chamber of Industry requesting that the ministry shorten its own list of imported commodities, Mr. Ibrahim said a committee has been formed to revise the list in order to float related prices and allow the private sector to import many items therein on condition that limited-income groups and poor families are not harmed by the measure.

On the imports of the Civil Service Consumer markets, the minister said that only commodities which are not produced in Jordan are imported.

He said the ministry gives priority to locally produced commodities to meet the requirements of these markets.

Strict rules keep Jordan free of infectious animal diseases

AMMAN (Petra) — Strict quarantine regulations and regular campaigns to combat animal diseases have made Jordan completely free of any infectious animal diseases, according to Mohammad Kilani, director of the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Services Department.

Dr. Kilani Saturday said animal diseases which affect cattle and sheep are prevalent in some African countries and neighbouring Arab states, but the department was maintaining a continuous drive on all fronts, using pesticides and veterinary medicines, to prevent any infection among the animals in Jordan.

There are eight quarantine centres along the Jordanian borders which control all incoming animals and provides the necessary veterinary services, Dr. Kilani

said.

He said Jordan is an importer of live sheep and its territory serves as a transit for animals being transported to and from neighbouring countries, and the department is especially vigilant in preventing infected animals from entering Jordan, said Dr. Kilani.

In addition, the department maintains 39 branch quarantine centres around the country, providing veterinary services, Dr. Kilani added.

Referring to horses in Jordan, Dr. Kilani stressed he received no report about any infection among them and said horses constitute part of the Kingdom's animal wealth and receive the department's full attention.

He explained that the department has been also able to con-

trol diseases affecting poultry, despite the huge poultry farming industry in Jordan.

He said all veterinary medications are distributed free of charge through the department's centres and branch centres in Jordan.

Dr. Kilani added that the department's Centre for Veterinary Vaccine, which was set up with help from Germany, sufficiently provides the Kingdom with its needs for veterinary vaccines, leaving a significant surplus for export.

He said the centre, established in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Development, produces millions of doses of veterinary vaccines for cattle, sheep and poultry.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent congratulates Ethiopia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to the President of Ethiopia on his country's national day. Regent wished the Ethiopian head of state continued good health and happiness and further progress for Ethiopian people.

PSD announces bridge closings

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Hussein Bridge across the Jordan River will be either partially or completely closed to travellers between Sept. 15 and Oct. 7, 1993, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday. The statement said that Wednesday, Sept. 15, Friday, Sept. 24, Wednesday, Sept. 29 and Wednesday, Oct. 6 the bridge will open until 10:30 a.m. It said that the bridge will be completely closed on the following days: Thursday, Sept. 16, Friday, Sept. 17, Saturday, Sept. 25, Thursday, Sept. 30 and Thursday, Oct. 7.

Ministry takes over German aid project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture Sunday will take over from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation a project for the development of forests and combating fires. The agency had been financing this project in Jordan since 1974 and providing equipment. It set up a special centre for storing seeds and provided training for Jordanian personnel involved in planting forests. The Ministry of Agriculture said the agency spent 15 million German marks on the project over the past 19 years.

2,200 youngsters to help green Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A government-appointed Higher Committee on Voluntary Work in Jordan has announced that 2,200 young volunteers will participate in helping to green the country. The activities will start on Sept. 18 and the participants will be involved in digging holes where trees are to be planted in January during Arbor Day celebrations in Jordan.

Amman chamber of industry invited to Moscow meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry has received an invitation to take part in the Second Arab Businessmen's Meeting to be held in Moscow on Sept. 21. The meeting is to allow the businesspersons to exchange views about the economic situation in the Russian Federation and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. During the four-day conference there will be a general trade fair displaying Arab countries' products.

Chief of staff leaves for talks in Paris

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh left Saturday for Paris on a several day official visit to France. He was seen off at the airport by the chief of staff of land forces.

Ahd leader to represent Majalis in polls

KARAK (Petra) — Chief of the Majali Tribal Council here, Marshal Habis Al Majali announced that Abdul Hadi Al Majali, the secretary general of the centrist Al Ahd Party, has been chosen as the tribe's candidate representing the Karak constituency in the coming parliamentary elections. Abdul Hadi Al Majali had served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Public Security Department director and ambassador of Jordan to the United States. Marshal Majali said the tribe's council Friday met and took the decision to nominate Abdul Hadi Al Majali as the tribe's candidate.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Muntah Al Ma'ani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bika at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis.
- ★ Thirty paintings by Amor Aouens and Salam Kanaan at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ New art gallery, "Dar al Fann," of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. Program includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Lawisbdeh.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshebelia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled: "The Gay Divorcee" at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m.

Jordanian products attract thousands in Damascus

DAMASCUS (Petra) — More than two million people have visited the Jordanian pavilion at the Damascus International Fair over the last three weeks, according to the pavilion director, Mustafa Khreisat.

He said Saturday that among the visitors were hundreds of business persons, merchants and industrialists from several Arab states who expressed interest in concluding purchase contracts with Jordanian industrial firms.

Jordan is displaying a variety of locally produced commodities, mostly industrial products.

According to Mr. Khreisat, numerous Syrian officials including the minister of external trade were among the visitors who said they were impressed by the high quality of Jordan's products.

The Kingdom has been a constant participant in the Damascus International Fair which is held annually.

Ramico Cleaning Services



Rugs & Fitted carpets shampooing (Dry Foam)
Waxing & Polishing Tiles & Marble
Flat & House Cleaning
Annual & montly contracts for Companies and Offices
(WIR SPRECHEN AUCH DEUSCH)
Telephone: 643630

Jordan Times

An independent Arab-political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

The dictates of power

THERE ARE many people around who are truly unhappy about the fact that the concessions the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) made in order to win the recognition of Israel far exceed those which Israel made in return for the organisation's recognition of the Jewish state's right to exist. But that the terms of the agreement were dictated by a regional and international balance of power that left the PLO with no better choice is a powerful argument that both opponents and proponents of the agreement should not overlook.

The mutual recognition is an act of realpolitik by politicians who seem to have come to realise that idealism will get them nowhere.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the Gulf crisis and war have deeply weakened the Arab bargaining posture and left the Palestinian side with no viable alternative to reaching peace with Israel on the offered terms.

Beyond its historical significance, the recognition does in fact strike us as a deal in which there was clear disparity between what the PLO has yielded to Israel and what the Rabin government has in turn conceded to the Palestinians. The most serious flaw in the deal could be the fact that the Palestinian recognition of the state of Israel was not contingent on defining "Israel" within its recognised borders. While it is true that the reference in PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's letter to the Israeli prime minister to U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 may redress this omission, it nevertheless does not allay our fears and anxieties about the Jewish state's territorial ambitions.

There is no doubt that the Palestinian side would have wished for a clearer wording on the extent of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. But since the balance of power is heavily tipped in favour of Israel, such a wish was simply unattainable. All those who condemn the PLO's concessions on this and other issues must keep in mind the regional situation that developed in the aftermath of the Gulf war and the demise of the Eastern bloc.

The countries that aborted Arab efforts to avoid a military conflict in Arab Gulf region following the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait must realise by now that their action has so weakened the Arab's, especially the Palestinian's, bargaining position to the extent that it has not been possible to fare any better in the deal with Israel. The Arabs among these countries, in particular have to feel some pain at what happened, unless they themselves planned and schemed to bring about such conclusion to Palestinian aspirations for an honourable settlement with the Israelis.

But despite the concessions it had to make, the PLO achieved for itself what it has always strived for: Recognition from its arch enemy Israel and, by extension, the United States of America.

This is a double-edged sword and the Palestinian people might have to pay an extra price for the PLO's gain. And since it is they who would ultimately have to live with the consequences of the political dealing and wheeling of the PLO and Israel, the free consent of the Palestinian people should be the final arbiter of the accord. No other party has the prerogative to pass a judgement on it except to the extent that the accord may affect it. Any thing more than that should be left to the Palestinians themselves to pass judgement on.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE MUTUAL recognition between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel opens the way for the two sides to implement the autonomy rule, said Al Dustour Arabic daily Saturday. It is clear that the Palestinian issue is now entering a new crucial phase of its history, a phase that is full of complexities requiring continued efforts and a lot of patience, but most importantly, good intentions as to the objectives of the agreement, said the daily. It should be emphasised here that the mutual recognition constitutes no more than a first step. A final solution for the Palestine question would take a very long time to be attained, continued the daily. The PLO is optimistic that this first step will eventually lead to the regaining of all the occupied Arab lands and holy places and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, said the paper. What the Arab masses fear, though, is that the PLO-Israeli deal would be implemented at the expense of Jerusalem, the paper pointed out. The Arabs also fear that the deal would weaken the coordination of Arab states involved in the peace process with Israel and render the Arab parties in total disarray, it added. The paper cited His Royal Highness Prince Hassan's words Friday in which he warned that as Arab Nation is passing through a very serious phase of its history, there is need for national unity and keenness on safeguarding Arab Nation's united stand. This, the paper added is a requirement to ensure the protection of Arab identity and Arab rights in Palestine.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Saturday voiced reservations about the PLO-Israeli deal, saying that the Israeli Labour Party has never changed its own version of interpreting U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. Tareq Masarweh said that he rejoices over the PLO's achievement but cannot trust the Israelis and are not sure about their real intentions. Furthermore, the writer said, while the PLO has recognised Israel, the Jewish state has never defined its borders; and has recognised the PLO and not the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. It is also to be noted, said the writer, that the PLO-Israeli deal has been endorsed by the Gulf states, Europe the USA and the United Nations as well as the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Jeddah before the approval of the PLO executive committee.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Jordan's role in the Middle East should not be marginalised

WHEN a foreign journalist asked the sensitive question about the possible marginalisation of Jordan after the Israeli-Palestinian self-rule deal, he did not mean that Jordan may become less important in the eyes of the Jordanians or the historians as one colleague thought. Rather, he was referring to a diminishing role and less ability to influence the course of events in the region, the yardstick being the Arab-Israeli conflict and the outcome of the peace process.

At one time, we, Jordanians, claimed that there could be no war or peace with Israel without Jordan. No war due to geographic facts and no peace due to political and demographic facts. Perhaps we were absolutely right, because that is what the geopolitical situation of Jordan suggests. We have only ourselves to blame if we did not play our cards right and did not put them on the table as real and practical options if and when the circumstances called for exercising any. Instead, we declared or implied our intentions not to play our cards nor to exercise any of our options. No wonder that a major Arab-Israeli war was planned and waged without involving Jordan, (1973), and a major peaceful breakthrough between the PLO and Israel was reached without even informing Jordan, (1993). In both cases, we were taken by surprise and lagging behind events; yet volunteered to provide our unconditional support, after a short period of hesitation and maybe even some confusion.

The war of 1973 and the peace of 1993 took place behind our backs and without consultation with us or giving us advance information. The reasons behind this improper behaviour on behalf of our Arab brothers are that we have been perceived as nice guys who accept anything and do not use their cards and

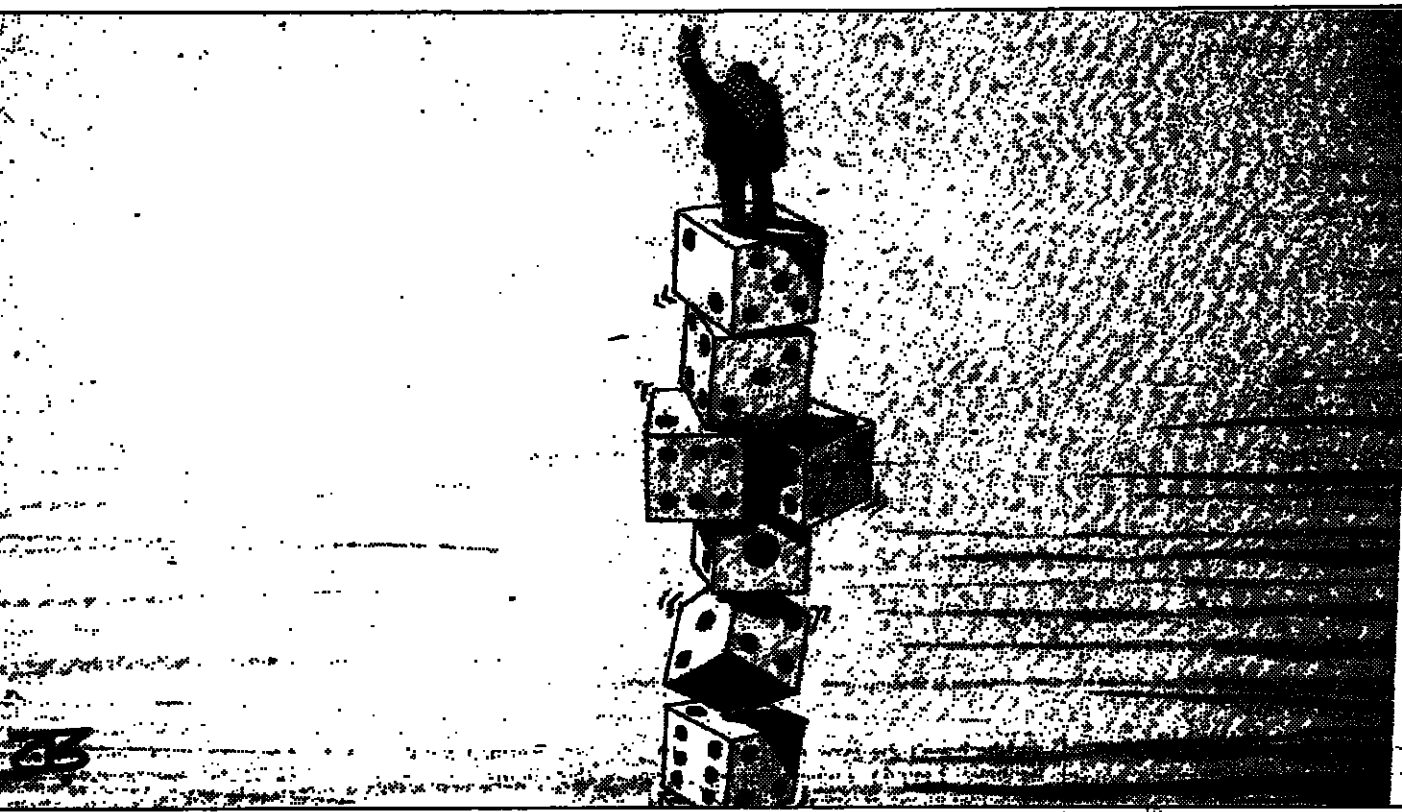
because Jordan adopts a policy of inaction until the dust settles and the picture becomes clear.

Unfortunately, when the dust settles and the picture becomes clear, the game is usually almost over, and we have a bag filled with responsibilities to shoulder and nothing else. In fact, we have allowed others to assume that we can be taken for granted and will do nothing to face the challenges of the new state of affairs. Those who transgress Jordan are betting that it will swallow the bullet and suffer in silence, as usual, in order not to jeopardise its good relations with this or that player, be the Americans, Europeans, Arabs, or Palestinians. We deal with each party as if we need them all and none of them needs us, and therefore we cannot risk provoking anyone.

Like the foreign journalist, I also worry about the possible marginalisation of our country if we continue to volunteer to give up our legitimate role and accept solutions to major issues to take place behind our backs, without having the opportunity to participate in the process or to influence the outcome and, in the process, allow others to take us for a ride.

This situation is serious and should not be tolerated. No responsible government should accept it. Jordan owns plenty of economic, political and logistical cards that are crucial to Israel, the PLO, United States and all concerned parties. Jordan can act to reward or penalise.

We should issue the proper signals that we do have the political will to act and protect our national interest and that we may use all our cards to protect our interests. Those who lose their role will definitely be marginalised and may lose their meaningful existence.



Irony for U.S. in Mideast peace-signing

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — For the United States, there will be no small irony in Monday's gala White House ceremony to sign the historic Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel agreement on Palestinian self-rule.

It has long assumed that no significant breakthrough in Middle East peace was possible without the direct involvement of the United States and its president.

But here is a breathtaking accord foreseeing Palestinian self-rule over the Gaza Strip and West Bank, achieved through the determination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat — and the mediation of Norway.

The United States until recently was unaware of the secret talks that produced the accord and did

not take part in the drafting, although senior officials were asked their judgement and made at least one specific suggestion.

U.S. President Bill Clinton will be centre stage at the White House celebration even though he avoided the personal and political risk and involvement in the Middle East of some predecessors.

Some analysts say the sideline role is an embarrassment to the United States and a sign the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel were forced to use a back channel because they did not have much confidence in Mr. Clinton — a foreign policy novice more interested in domestic affairs — or Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Nevertheless, while initial reaction has focused on how the United States was a spectator in the PLO-Israeli breakthrough, most experts say it would be a mistake to ignore America's unequalled role in helping to create a context in which the deal could be struck.

"The United States has been the only catalyst that was effective," Mideast expert Bernard Reich told Reuters.

"The Norwegians were primarily the provider of good offices, a place for the parties to meet," said Mr. Reich, of George Washington University. "But they didn't generate the process. We generated the process... We brought the parties together, we kept them together, we pushed them along."

Experts say the peace agreement resonates heavily of ideas and language either proposed by

the United States or developed by the parties during two years of Washington-led peace talks.

Former President George Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, set the current process in motion.

They capitalised on communism's fall by enlisting Moscow's support in the Gulf war and getting the Russians to co-sponsor direct talks between Israel and its adversaries — Palestinians, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Mr. Bush risked ties with Israel and the powerful American Jewish community by threatening to withhold housing loans if Israel did not stop settlement of occupied Arab lands. In Arab eyes, that added credibility to the U.S. peace-making role.

Still, many experts said the talks would never happen or would soon disintegrate.

A dilemma for the Arabs of Nazareth

By Robert Fisk

"IT IS the beginning of Palestinian independence," the Israeli reservist announced after he had hitched a ride in my car to Nazareth. "I live on a settlement in Samaria — in what you call occupied territory — and my parents think the same. Arafat is going to get a state. My parents will probably stay where they are. Maybe I'll leave for somewhere else in Israel." And when we reached Nazareth, the 20-year-old soldier clambered out with his assault rifle and walked past the Arab shops to the gate of his base. Not one of the shopkeepers would have disagreed with him.

For those Palestinians who do not fall under the Gaza-Jericho autonomy plan remain deeply suspicious of, if not hostile to Yasser Arafat's new rule, the Israeli Arabs of Nazareth have no such qualms. "It is the start, the beginning, the best thing we have heard in 45 years," the local optician proclaimed as he sat below the old Hotel Royal. The men in the barber's shop said the same. "Everything the Palestinians did until now was a mistake," a soap-sudsed customer shouted. "Arafat has done something right for a change."

Palestinian. How strange the word sounds here in Nazareth, how uneasily the restaurant owners and merchants and souvenir sellers react to the word. For Israel's Arabs, as David Grossman says, have learned to stand still on a tightrope, between Israeli and Arab suspicion, citizens of Israel whose hearts swell with hope for a Palestinian state without wishing to live in it. As Naif Fahoum puts it in his snack bar, "I'm one of those people who all the time think about things without feeling 'I am a Palestinian' or 'I am Jewish'. I am Arab, yes, and I am from Nazareth. I am one of those who has struggled longest for our dignity — because I didn't leave my land, I didn't end up in Lebanon or Syria or Jordan. I stayed on in my home."

To a man — and a woman — they said yesterday that they would remain in Nazareth, that they would keep their Israeli passports, that they did not wish to transfer their allegiance to any Arafat state. Take Naif Fahoum's cousin Afu, sitting in his electrical store just below the Church of the Annunciation — whether this was Jesus's home town is still debated among scholars — watching the tourists pouring off the buses. "In 1948, the Israelis took many of our lands. They took 15,000 of my family's 20,000 dunums of land. Many of our family fled. One of them is living in Chatila camp in Beirut. Another is Khaled Fahoum who was head of the PLO's 'parliament' and lives in Damascus. But we stayed on here. And we suffered from both sides — from Arab and Israeli — who at various times both called us traitors. But I was born here, my roots are here."

Afu Fahoum believes that a PLO-Israeli agreement will ease the lot of the 85,000 Arabs who hold Israeli citizenship.

"When we leave the airport, they still treat us differently, despite our passports," he says. "We can't buy new farms without special permission. We can't work in big important factories. We can't buy newly built villas in certain areas. We are watched. We are not equal, despite our passports. But if the PLO and

Israel can work their relationship, then things will get better for us. We have suffered in the past and we deserve a better life."

The Fahoums owned land in the village of Ndur which was destroyed by the Israelis in 1948 — the settlement of Ain Dour Vidarat now stands on the site — and Afu Fahoum and his brother Tariq often drive past the ghost village. "I feel such sadness when I do that," he says. "Many of our elderly relatives are allowed to come from Jordan to visit and they go there, too, to what was Ndur, to see the stones of the houses where they once lived. We don't forget, you see. If we forget our land, we are not men."

Naif Fahoum has worked out his position with a fine logic. "I always ask myself one question: can the Palestinians destroy the Jews? And the answer is no. And then I ask: can the Jews destroy the Palestinians? And again, the answer is negative. So there is only one solution — which is, for me, a fact which we realised 30 years ago, when we were at last accepted here by the Israelis: that two peoples are supposed to live in this land."

In the years after their 1948 defeat, the Arabs who remained in that part of Palestine which became Israel were put under military rule. Many were deported while Israel confiscated thousands of acres of their land in a repression which Israeli civil rights workers now say should never have been imposed. There are claims here which might resurface in a generation or two, even earlier. According to Afu Fahoum, another cousin — Izzat — fled Nazareth in 1948 but managed to return in 1952, only to find that his home had been confiscated by the Israeli authorities. He rented it for several years and then, after 25 years, finally bought his own house back, having already paid for it once before, under the British mandate.

But the population of Nazareth, while they want foreigners — and, one suspects, the PLO — to acknowledge their suffering, recognise that the Israel of 1993 is not the Israel of 1948 or 1952. It is the question of identity, however, which they still find hard to answer — even if they know what the answer is. "I can't believe in names," Naif Fahoum says. "I would never ask for a Palestinian passport. I have an Israeli passport. I am going to keep it. My identity is my roots. We have suffered here and proved ourselves in our country."

He used the word "our" for the Fahoum family. Did he feel Israel was "his" country? He laughed. "Look, first I am an Arab — Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria were all created by Western countries. In 1944, when I was born, everyone here — Arab and Jew — was a Palestinian. I still have my father's old electricity bills with 'Government of Palestine' on the top in Arabic and Hebrew. It is our future to live together, whether we like it or not. We must not be afraid of each other — because there is no other way."

"You ask what I am. I say this: Nazareth is my homeland." Naif Fahoum feels that something else is called for.

"If all the Arab World, including the PLO... tell Israel they recognise her behind her 1967 frontiers, then I am an Israeli Arab" — The Independent.

PLO-Israel agreement natural step in historic four years

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

Though 'untidy' and 'explosive' the deal is major move towards peace in the Middle East

ONCE AGAIN, the rush of headlines is writing history by the hour. Once again, the lion and the lamb are lying down together — or at least sending each other friendly faxes.

This time it's the Middle East, latest chapter in the condensed version of an epoch, four years in which Communism has lifted its grip on the East, nuclear powers have begun discarding their weapons, peace has won its chance in wars from Afghanistan to Ethiopia to El Salvador.

But even the most euphoric Israelis and Palestinians know their chapter remains largely unwritten. The latest and dangerous part is yet to come. The wall tumbling down in Jericho is no Berlin wall.

This week's breakthrough in secret Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel talks fit neatly into a parade of rapid-fire surprises:

The overnight collapse of Eastern Europe's Communist states in 1989. Nelson Mandela's release and the promise of racial justice in South Africa in 1990. The Soviet Union's disintegration in 1991. The historic nuclear arms treaty of 1992. Peace in Nicaragua, Cambodia and points between. Democra-

cy in unlikely lands. A global army crushing a single aggressor.

In a way, the natural next step had to be taken by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The cold war's end was a signal to Israel. The United States will long remain a friend — even a last-ditch protector. But it no longer needs Israel as a vital ally amid adversaries. And Americans, someday soon, may decide they no longer need to send the Jewish state \$3 billion a year in aid. Israel's only choice: Work harder for stability, peace, prosperity.

Across the divide, the emerging new world put the PLO under even more pressure. The Soviet collapse stripped the Arab parties to the conflict of a superpower support. And then the Gulf war stripped the PLO of still more friends — the Arab oil states — because leader Yasser Arafat was seen to have cast his lot with Iraq.

Mr. Arafat was besieged from the rear, too, by Palesti-

nian Muslim fundamentalists fighting both Israel and the PLO mainstream. He had to act fast, to come up with something to show for his "moderation."

The result: A terse Israeli

statement accepting the PLO as a negotiating partner, and a plan that offers more uncertain prospects than concrete Israeli pledges.

The Palestinians get substantial self-rule in Gaza, an overcrowded, dirt-poor strip of land bordering Egypt, and in Jericho, a dusty town near Jordan. As for the rest of the

"The new agreement does not deal with 1 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria and elsewhere. They want their homes back, some in Haifa, Jaffa and other towns in Israel. They still have the front-door keys."

It was an untidy deal. Mr. Arafat barely won approval from the PLO Executive Committee. Long-time PLO friends walked out on him. Israel doesn't recognise a Palestinian right to statehood. And Israel had to settle for less than a guarantee from the governing Palestinian National Council that it would formally

drop its charter's demand that the Jewish state be replaced with a secular one. Longer-range challenges loom larger still: The new agreement doesn't deal with 1 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria and elsewhere. They want their homes back, some in Haifa, Jaffa and other towns in Israel. They still have the front-door keys. The 120,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank will resist encroachment by a Palestinian authority. Any imposed sharing of land and water rights will fire up hostilities. The powerful Israeli right wing will work as never before to inflame opinion against Israel's Labour government as it pursues its talks with the PLO.

The agreement doesn't touch the most explosive question of all, Jerusalem. Israelis want to keep the entire holy city as their capital. But Jerusalem is holy to Muslims and Christians, too, and many of them will stir religious fervour even more over Israel's blanket control.

History didn't "end" with the end of Communism, as a scholar suggested. It merely resumed, in all its unpredictability, after the frozen years of cold war impasse.

Now history, or one chapter of it, must be written by Israelis and Palestinians. Will they put down their rifles and stones, put away their bulldozers and bombs? The holy Koran is clear: "If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God."

But these lions and lambs must eventually learn to trust in each other, too.

In the end, Arafat won — but it was tough going in Tunis

By Mona Ziadé
The Associated Press

TUNIS — With 259 words typed on a sheet of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) stationery, a bone-weary but elated Yasser Arafat renounced violence and opened the way to end nearly a half-century of bloodshed between Palestinians and Israelis.

But the angry, unwritten exchanges between him and his own lieutenants during the long private hours before that historic act underline the perils that peace still faces.

Answering Mr. Arafat's letter Thursday on behalf of the PLO, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to recognise the movement, his country's mortal foe for the last three decades. Mr. Rabin has his own hardliners to contend with. He signed early Friday.

The pact took months of secret meetings in a host of countries to arrange. But the dramatic last 48 hours took place inside PLO headquarters, a nondescript Arabesque villa in the Yaghourth suburb of Tunis where the organisation's Executive Committee gathered.

Participants, speaking on condition of anonymity, gave an account of what transpired.

Outside, armed Tunisian and Palestinian bodyguards stood around the three-story, stone villa, eyeing cars zigzagging through barbed-wire barriers on the two-lane street.

Inside, in a first-floor, green-carpeted conference room, the council meeting commenced at 10 a.m. Wednesday. The timing was unusually early for the PLO leadership. Mr. Arafat invariably starts his meetings late at night.

For the first few hours, Mr. Arafat was not there. He was finishing a sweep of Arab capitals drumming up support for a plan that starts with limited self-rule for Jericho and the turbulent Gaza Strip, a cauldron of resistance to Israel's 26-year occupation. The recognition agreement with Israel was needed for the self-rule plan.

At 5 p.m. Mr. Arafat arrived in Tunis, wearing his usual green fatigues, his pistol on his hip, his trademark black-and-white checkered kaffiyeh headscarf covering his bald head.

He took his place at the head of the U-shaped table and set up a telephone link with Paris, where trusted adviser Ahmad Qurei'a was negotiating the final language.

Mr. Arafat kept the line open the next eight hours. At the table Mr. Arafat could count on three men: Yasser Abed-Rabbo, his information chief and longtime advocate of dialogue with Israel; Mahmoud Abbas, the PLO's number two official; and Jawid Ghossein, head of the Palestine National Fund, the PLO's "finance ministry."

Five of the 18 committee members were missing, they had resigned or were boycotting the meeting.

Five who were there were bitterly opposed to him and were unlikely to be swayed. They were Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's "foreign minister," Mahmoud Ismail, Abdullah Hourani, Ali Isahq, and Mr. Kaddoumi's close friend, Jamal Sourani.

Mr. Arafat needed to win over four others — Suleiman Najjab, Samir Ghosheh, Mohammad Zuhdi Nashedshibi and Yasser Ahruf.

Putting on his reading spectacles, Mr. Arafat joined the heated debate. Almost immediately, the argument grew hotter.

Mr. Kaddoumi and his group berated him for his willingness to formally renounce armed struggle.

They argued that was tantamount to admitting that the PLO was a "terrorist" group, as the Israelis had always branded it, and was now changing its course.

Then came the explosive subject of whether Mr. Arafat should agree to call for a halt to the nearly six-year-old Palestinian uprising against Israel in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The silver-haired Kaddoumi, one of the PLO's old guard, conservative leaders, objected vehemently.

"That contravenes the basic commitment we have made to our people to keep up the struggle until the liberation of Palestine," he later said.

At 1 a.m. Thursday, with nothing decided and the fate of Mr. Arafat's plan still hanging in the balance, the meeting broke up.

The PLO leaders got into their black BMWs and dark blue Mercedes limousines, all with tinted windows, and drove off.

At 10 a.m. Thursday, Mr. Arafat, Mr. Abbas and Mr. Abed-Rabbo met with Mr. Kaddoumi for five hours, trying to win him over.

Around 3 p.m. a grim-faced Kaddoumi, wearing a blue safari suit and leaning on a walking stick, left the meeting. He re-

fused to talk. The others went to Tunis airport to greet Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, a key mediator in Mr. Arafat's secret talks with Israel. He was arriving to witness Mr. Arafat's signing of the letter.

Just after 5 p.m., the meeting resumed. Mr. Kaddoumi was not there.

Several committee members argued that stopping the uprising would strip the PLO of its last bargaining chip if Israel reneged on proposed Palestinian self-rule.

But Mr. Arafat, stubborn as ever, held his ground. The little the Israelis were offering was better than nothing and the offer might never come again, he argued.

A snag arose: Announcing clauses in the PLO's 1968 charter calling for destroying Israel and establishing an Arab state in all of pre-1948 Palestine, as defined by the British mandate, could not legally be done without the approval of the Palestine National Council, the 466-seat Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

The proposed solution: A promise in the letter to Mr. Rabin to convene the PNC to ratify the decision later. In return, Mr. Arafat's opponents would accept

a renunciation of violence. Unacceptable, Israel said through its negotiators in Paris. Nothing short of a full commitment would do.

Mr. Arafat's voice grew hoarse. After six more hours of fierce debate, his patience grew short. He demanded a vote.

Mr. Najjab and the other three middle-grounders caved in. They backed Mr. Arafat. It gave him eight votes. Mr. Ismail, Mr. Hourani and Mr. Isahq voted against. Mr. Sourani abstained.

At 11:15 p.m., Mr. Abed-Rabbo, pale and clearly exhausted, emerged from the villa.

He stood in a late-night drizzle coming in off the Mediterranean as he solemnly announced the outcome. Mr. Arafat had won. Mr. Holst would carry the letter to Mr. Rabin.

After Mr. Abed-Rabbo's announcement, Mr. Arafat signed the document that could end one of the world's most intractable conflicts.

It was 15 minutes to midnight. There was no elation. Everyone was too tired — unlike the visibly excited Arafat who appeared some time later.

"I have signed. I have signed the letter," he declared, struggling to mask his exhaustion behind a broad victory smile.

Yasser Arafat meets photographers in Tunis late Friday (AFP photo)

Did Rabin and Arafat meet in France?

PARIS (R) — Did Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat meet secretly in a Paris hotel on July 7? The answer seems to be maybe.

Valerie Zenati, a reporter for the French Jewish community's radio Communauté Juive, says she saw the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, once reviled by Israelis as the symbol of terror, in a profile published Friday in Israel's largest circulation daily, Yedioth Ahronoth.

The profile — complete with photo of Mr. Arafat munching lunch and chatting on a cordless phone — appeared the same day of the historic mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO.

Yedioth's gossip columnist, Mira Avrech, went to Tunis to capture the domestic Arafat.

Israelis are curious about the prospects of being Mr. Arafat's neighbour, now that he has declared his intention to set up shop in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, areas where Palestinians will receive self-rule under the new agreement.

Ms. Avrech asked Mr. Arafat if he regretted any part of his bloody struggle. "Nothing," he replied.

PLO figures, once banned from Israel TV screens, are now regular talk-show fare. Israeli reporters are tracking down insights in Tunis, the site of the PLO headquarters.

Ms. Avrech marvelled at the sense of humour and the "incessant lovelessness for his wife" of the man who was once the "unmitigated symbol of terror, bombs and murders."

"A real love story," is how Suha Arafat, 29, regarded her marriage to Mr. Arafat, 64.

Ms. Avrech was curious about the dress habits: "Now that you've moved from the armed struggle to the political struggle, will you wear civilian clothing?" she asked.

"Give me a tux," he said, "and I'll wear a tux and a bow-tie."

Jordan backs all moves that serve Arab rights

(Continued from page 1)

Answering questions from the audience, the Crown Prince made the following points:

Jordan's fundamental approach is based on peace through dialogue. At the same time, its security and stability are very important. Any state of chaos in any of its flanks will have direct bearing on Jordan and the Kingdom's concerns to ensure national security are reflected on its policies and approaches.

Jordan has always been the first to demand that the suffering of the Palestinian people be ended and their rights restored.

"We hope that the Gaza/Jericho first agreement will be a beginning and will pave the way for it," the Regent said. "We are with all that supports the Arab right in Palestine."

"We in Jordan were the first to work and sacrifice for the crystallisation of the Palestinian identity. Jordan hosted the first Palestinian National Council held in Jerusalem."

Jordan did not interfere in Palestinian affairs, he said. Nor did it meddle with Palestinian politics. It responded to the resolution adopted by the 1974 Arab summit held in Rabat, in response to Arab wishes and the

demands of the PLO, to endorse the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordan, which severed all administrative and legal ties with the West Bank in 1988, offered the umbrella of a joint delegation to facilitate Palestinian participation in the peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991.

All these moves came in support of Jordan's efforts to support the Palestinian identity, he said.

In reply to a question of proposed economic development plans in the occupied territories, the Crown Prince noted that Jordan was not like other countries which remained just a host country for Palestinian refugees.

Jordan had suffered from the impact of the influx of refugees several times, starting with 1948, 1967 and the latest wave (from the Gulf following the Gulf crisis).

"The national character of Jordan, as emphasised by His Majesty the King, demands that Jordanians of all origins be part of the international effort announced in the context of development," he said.

Such development effort should target those who have actually suffered from the crises of the Middle East, he said.

The Regent said it was not acceptable that Israel, which created the Middle East problem in

the first place and has colonised the West Bank and Gaza Strip economically, be the conduit for such development. "This is a right of the region," he emphasised.

On Jerusalem the Regent said Jordan would not give up the cause of the Holy City, "which touches our hearts. History and sovereignty over it concerns us."

"Jordan gave up sovereignty over the West Bank in response to the legal dimensions of U.N. resolutions which defined it as occupied territory and in response to the Arab will in Rabat and the insistence of the PLO," he said.

Arafat, Rabin to attend signing

(Continued from page 1)

mony) will heighten the atmosphere and reinforce the determination for peace," Mr. Clinton later told reporters outside his hotel in Houston.

"I'm very excited," he added, saying the pact "has the potential to change the way Muslims, Christians and Jews relate to each other."

Asked what he could do to top this achievement, the president said: "By keeping it going. This is just the beginning."

He hinted that agreement between Israel and Jordan could be the next step towards a Mideast settlement.

Asked about the prospects for an Israeli-Jordan accord, the president said he expected a breakthrough there "soon."

Mr. Clinton was in Houston with Vice-President Al Gore to promote his administration's "investing government" initiative, intended to make the government more efficient and effective.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned Mr. Rabin early on Saturday morning and invited him to attend the signing ceremony at the White House.

Israelis kill 2 in Ramallah

(Continued from page 1)

ed Palestinian flags and posters of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Such symbols of Palestinian nationalism are still outlawed by Israel.

Rallies for and against the accord were held throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Saturday. Mr. Arafat has called on the two million Palestinians in the territories to end their six-year-old uprising against Israel.

The opposition, encompassing former allies of Mr. Arafat in the ranks of the PLO and among Muslim fundamentalists, drew 2,000 supporters to a rally at the

West Bank's Al Najah university on Saturday. Some 400 opponents of the accord also attended a rally in the West Bank town of Hebron and another one was planned for the town of Beit Sahour, south of Jerusalem.

Hundreds of Palestinians opposed to the PLO-Israel deal burnt a picture of Mr. Arafat during a sit-in strike at PLO offices in Damascus Saturday, witnesses said.

"No for Arafat and his treason group," and "no for the treacherous Gaza-Jericho deal," banners raised by participants during the protest said.

The protesters, representing 10

More support peace accord

(Continued from page 1)

world-wide Muslim protests to the PLO-Israel accord," while the Islamic centrist Abrar newspaper focused on the death threats against Mr. Arafat made by hardline Palestinians and Mr. Clinton's recognition of the PLO.

Sudan said it was ready to back any option adopted by the Palestinians in their efforts to move towards creating an independent Palestinian state.

Foreign Minister Hussein Abi Saleh stressed in a statement to the daily Al Aghar 'Al Watan Saturday that Sudan would stand by any option chosen by the Palestinians.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was quoted as saying the Israel-PLO agreement was a farce.

In a statement broadcast by Libyan television he said the mutual recognition of the PLO and Israel was "one of the comedies of history and should be considered as an object of ridicule and a farce and not a serious matter."

The Libyan newspaper Al Jamahiriya said that recognition of Israel was a betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

In Rabat, the World Assembly of Moroccan Jews said the Arab states should now recognise Israel after the accord between the PLO and Tel Aviv.

Israel flagmaker receives orders for Palestinian flags

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Berman's wife, Hadassah, said that soon after the news came out she received orders from abroad for Palestinian flags from people who remembered the couple's head start on the Egyptian banners.

But the couple also fielded several calls from Israelis opposed to the decision to make the Palestinian flags.

"When they read about it in the newspaper, people started phoning and saying, 'you shouldn't do it, it's not good, it will bring the recognition of a Palestinian state,'" said Mrs. Berman.

Mr. Berman said he had received orders for more than 12,000 Palestinian flags. He said several people walked into his shop on Wednesday and ordered 10,000. Mr. Berman would not identify the clients.

Mr. Berman has spent the past two days seeking permission from the foreign ministry to make the flags, but has encountered confusion. "Nobody knows if I can do it or not," he said.

One of his conversations with the foreign ministry reflects the Israeli ambivalence.

"They said, 'You can make them, but if you supply any terrorist organisation, you risk an offence.' So I said, 'how come it's not an offence to sign an agreement with them?'" They said, 'it is, but nobody can prosecute for that.' So I said, 'what happens Monday if they sign the agreement?'" they said, 'Monday we will have a new position'."

Meet Arafat — chef, danner, and PLO chief

TEL AVIV (AP) — He likes Mickey Mouse and Westerns and a good laugh. He cooks a mean rice pilaf. He calls himself a feminist — and even darns socks.

This is no personal ad, this is Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, once reviled by Israelis as the symbol of terror, in a profile published Friday in Israel's largest circulation daily, Yedioth Ahronoth.

The profile — complete with photo of Mr. Arafat munching lunch and chatting on a cordless phone — appeared the same day of the historic mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO.

Yedioth's gossip columnist, Mira Avrech, went to Tunis to capture the domestic Arafat.

Israelis are curious about the prospects of being Mr. Arafat's neighbour, now that he has declared his intention to set up shop in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, areas where Palestinians will receive self-rule under the new agreement.

Ms. Avrech asked Mr. Arafat if he regretted any part of his bloody struggle. "Nothing," he replied.

PLO figures, once banned from Israel TV screens, are now regular talk-show fare. Israeli reporters are tracking down insights in Tunis, the site of the PLO headquarters.

Ms. Avrech marvelled at the sense of humour and the "incessant lovelessness for his wife" of the man who was once the "unmitigated symbol of terror, bombs and murders."

"A real love story," is how Suha Arafat, 29, regarded her marriage to Mr. Arafat, 64.

Ms. Avrech was curious about the dress habits: "Now that you've moved from the armed struggle to the political struggle, will you wear civilian clothing?" she asked.

"Give me a tux," he said, "and I'll wear a tux and a bow-tie."

Did Rabin and Arafat meet in France?

PARIS (R) — Did Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat meet secretly in a Paris hotel on July 7? The answer seems to be maybe.

Valerie Zenati, a reporter for the French Jewish community's radio Communauté Juive, says she saw the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, once reviled by Israelis as the symbol of terror, in a profile published Friday in Israel's largest circulation daily, Yedioth Ahronoth.

The profile — complete with photo of Mr. Arafat munching lunch and chatting on a cordless phone — appeared the same day of the historic mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO.

Yedioth's gossip columnist, Mira Avrech, went to Tunis to capture the domestic Arafat.

Israelis are curious about the prospects of being Mr. Arafat's neighbour, now that he has declared his intention to set up shop in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, areas where Palestinians will receive self-rule under the new agreement.

Ms. Avrech asked Mr. Arafat if he regretted any part of his bloody struggle. "Nothing," he replied.


PLO figures, once banned from Israel TV screens, are now regular talk-show fare. Israeli reporters are tracking down insights in Tunis, the site of the PLO headquarters.

Ms. Avrech marvelled at the sense of humour and the "incessant lovelessness for his wife" of the man who was once the "unmitigated symbol of terror, bombs and murders."

"A real love story," is how Suha Arafat, 29, regarded her marriage to Mr. Arafat, 64.

Ms. Avrech was curious about the dress habits: "Now that you've moved from the armed struggle to the political struggle, will you wear civilian clothing?" she asked.

"Give me a tux," he said, "and I'll wear a tux and a bow-tie."



The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and The American Center present

(1)

THE ORCHESTRA OF THE NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY
Ronald Mead Horton, guest conductor
Wednesday, 15 September 1993, 8:00 p.m.
The program includes: Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 3
Brahms: Violin Concerto
Mahler: Symphony No. 1
Sibelius: Violin Concerto


(2)

THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF THE JORDAN ARMED FORCES AND THE ORCHESTRA OF THE NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY
Ronald Mead Horton, guest conductor
Saturday, 25 September 1993, 8:00 p.m.
The program includes: Beethoven: Egmont Overture
Mahler: Symphony No. 1
Sibelius: Violin Concerto
Brahms: Violin Concerto

Tickets for JD 5 for each concert are available at:

- The Royal Cultural Centre, tel. 669026
- Parole Restaurant, tel. 824877
- Philadelphia Hotel, tel. 631100
- The American Center, tel. 820101
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 887820

SPECIAL OFFER JD 8 FOR THE TWO PERFORMANCES



A COURSE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

This course will be held on Sunday and Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 8:30, between 19 September and 16 November. The fee will be JD 85.000. The texts studied will be:

- Shakespeare's "Macbeth"
- Golding's "Lord of the Flies"
- A selection of modern poetry
- A selection of modern short stories

Registration will be on Wednesday 15 September, from 2 to 5 p.m. Candidates must be aged 17 or over and will be required to pass an English language placement test.

Registered in England as a charity No. 209131

World commodity prices tumble

What shocked the market into decline was this week's report by the International Agency (IEA). It shaved its forecast for oil demand by 300,000 b/d for the six months starting Oct. 1.

In July, Saudi Arabia publicly accused Iran of causing the price collapse by overproducing.

This is no longer the case. The Middle East Economic Digest this week estimated Iranian production was within quota for the first time in months.

Iran has argued that Saudi Arabia must cut hardest if the U.N. embargo on Iraqi oil is eased or lifted. But this now appears unlikely for at least one year.

The head of the U.N. special commission on Iraq, Rolf Ekens, said in New York Thursday night it might be a year before he could recommend to the Security Council that the oil embargo on Iraq be lifted.

To improve prices will stay depressed.

"I don't see any great pick-up in demand ...we need to see cutbacks in production," one expert said.

The one exception, until late this week, was copper. But that, too, fell after the London Metal Exchange, through which the bulk of the world's base metals are traded, imposed tough price curbs to try to end an artificial supply squeeze.

One dealer warned that copper prices could fall sharply.

Nickel did edge up over the week with traders wondering whether a major producer would cut output, but prices remain extremely weak.

Analysts said that investment funds, which have been the backbone of some price rises lately in gold, have given support by moving money into options and futures. "But unless improved fundamentals are there to support

Future-delivery prices for the world benchmark Brent Blend crude fell 22 cents \$15.78 a barrel, the cheapest since July 1990, a month before the attack on Kuwait.

There are, however, bright spots.

Coffee and cocoa have been breaking records this week, essentially because traders fear supplies are short.

Prices for coffee in London have risen to their highest in dollar terms since the current contract was launched more than two years ago, fuelled by an agreement by producers to hold back 20 per cent of their exports from the market.

On Friday morning, the November positions was trading in London at \$1,520 a tonne, up around \$100 in one week and double the historic lows of a year ago.

Cocoa too has been on a rollercoaster, backed by estimates that the fall in

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich has said that the Clinton administration had created one million new jobs, but admitted their quality is not as high as he would like.

Mr. Reich, speaking on the Cable News Network's "Moneyline" programme, said the new jobs, created at a rate of 130,000 to 140,000 a month, represented 95 per cent of all the new jobs created in the previous four years.

"After years of stagnation, at times almost no job growth at all, we are beginning to come out of the woods," Mr. Reich said.

"We are ... in a jobs recovery, a slow and halting jobs recovery," he added.

Mr. Reich admitted that

Japan and Europe weaker than expected, OECD says

again in 1994.

The OECD forecast in July that Japan's economy would expand by one per cent in 1993 and by 3.3 per cent next year.

Sluggish consumer spending and an uncertain business climate were also making Japan's economic management difficult, he said.

The economist said that Japan, like Europe, has run into unexpectedly wide budget gaps, which left little room to boost the economy with fiscal stimuli.

In Europe, the problem from economic growth was the persistently high level of real interest rates, he said.

"We welcome the Bundesbank's action yesterday," he said.

countries there are even some signs of possible recovery," he said.

He also appeared to back the approach of Germany's neighbours, which are generally following the Bundesbank's cautious pace of interest rate cuts despite their new-found freedom within Europe's Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

Speculative pressure on ERM currencies forced the Community to widen the fluctuation bands of most ERM monies dramatically in mid-1993.

"One should be cautious in using the room for manoeuvre," he said after chairing the WP3 meeting. "It is necessary to follow a line of regaining credibility

Broker plans money injection for ailing Lloyd's of London

LONDON (R) — Europe's largest insurance brokerage, Sedgwick Group PLC, launched an investment fund Friday to bring corporate capital to the rescue of the ailing Lloyd's of London insurance market.

Lloyd's is trying to attract corporate capital with limited liability after relying in the past entirely on wealthy individuals, called names, with unlimited liability.

Analysts expect that for 1994 alone, Lloyd's will have to find at least £1 billion (\$1.55 billion) of corporate capital before January to top up an expected £7.5 billion (\$11.6 billion) in private capital to back the expected insurance policies for 1994. Last year names put up £28.8 billion (\$13.6 billion) in capital but three years of losses have seriously jaded their investment appetite.

In June, Lloyd's — which re-

ports three years in arrears — announced a record \$2.9 billion (\$4.5 billion) loss for 1990. It could run up a total loss of \$5 billion (\$9.3 billion) for 1988 to 1991 due to a state of natural disasters exacerbated by questionable reinsurance practices.

Lloyd's Chairman David Rowland will Monday unveil his plans on how to introduce corporate capital as part of a blueprint for reforms. He suffered a setback Thursday when his deputy, Stephen Merrett, resigned in order to devote more time to the difficulties of his own underwriting agency.

Sedgwick said its CLM Advisers PLC unit was launching the CLM insurance fund with sponsorship by merchant bank Barclays de Zoete Wedd, part of Barclays PLC. Financial sources said the fund was expected to attract between £150 million

and £200 million (\$232 and \$310 million).

"There are exciting opportunities available at Lloyd's at the moment and we are creating this fund to take advantage of them," said Michael Wade, chief executive of CLM Advisers PLC.

U.S. groups Marsh McLennan and Cos Inc. and J.P. Morgan Co. Inc. have said they are planning to launch a giant corporate fund called Trident, of some £1 billion (\$1.55 billion).

Bangladesh cracks down on fake employment agents

DHAKA (R) — Impoverished Bangladeshi overseas workers as a source of income have been down on unscrupulous recruiting agents. The officials from the Ministry of Labour have already been punishing agents who had been cancelled. Another nine agents had been under investigation for all overseas work. Nearly one million Bangladeshis had remitted \$900 million compared to \$848 million the previous year. Thousands of people looking for work abroad by fake or dishonest officials said. There have been several reports of workers travelling on false documents. In July, Dhaka airport police boarded a chartered flight to Malaysia.

Bangladesh, heavily dependent on its vital foreign exchange, is cracking down on agents, government officials said. The Ministry of Labour and Manpower said 56 agents, including 10 who were recruiting temporarily suspended while 37 were charged with fraud against applicants for jobs abroad.

Expatriates, mostly working in the oil industry, returned home in a million in the year to June 1993, the ministry said.

The ministry said that in the previous year, about 100,000 jobs had been cheated at home by unscrupulous recruiting agents, the ministry said.

In recent cases of duped Bangladeshis, the ministry said, applicants who have been ordered home, the ministry said, arrested 22 Bangladeshis trying to leave the country with forged travel documents.

Chinese army looking for foreign capital to boost civilian work

PEKING (AFP) — Businesses owned by the Chinese army are 'too' *for foreign partners to box civilian production*, the China Daily has reported.

The range of areas of possible cooperation is considerable, from aerospace to textiles, naval construction to petrochemicals, said Chen Dazi, head of the planning department of the Commission of Science and Industry for National Defence.

"One of our major advantages is China's 14 years of experience in shifting defence technology to

civilian uses," said Chen, a general in the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

They army runs more than 1,000 businesses with some three million experienced workers and 300,000 researchers, he said, adding that China has a vast market and low production costs.

At the beginning of the year, General Chen said two thirds of military industry was being used for civilian production.

China's military began a massive restructuring plan at the beginning of the 1980s which has

been accelerated in the past two years. The PLA has shed large number of soldiers, modernised its outdated equipment and stepped up civilian production.

Military firms are particularly active in the country's special economic zones and contributed much to the development of the largest of the zones in Shenzhen, on the border with Hong Kong.

At the international exhibition on the peaceful use of military industrial technology held in Hong Kong in July, China signed 79 contracts worth \$2.5 billion.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Think of all the angles and standpoints that are potential to putting across your ideas and products and get a well-rounded understanding of the general public's attitude before you attempt reorganisation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to keep calm and poised despite the fact that the general public is annoyed by the antics or strange actions of someone you regard as a good friend.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think about what you can do to maintain an objective attitude when some conditions in the outside world that are not to your liking do occur.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You want to break loose from the accepted principles under which you have been operating but it is hard to return to reality if you do so.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your intuitive perceptions and feelings, usually so accurate, are apt to be way off base today, tonight so do not rely upon them but stick to the accepted.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You find this is the day to avoid those who are unconventional and bizarre and to stick to those proven associates upon whom you can rely on.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be sure you try not to do anything of an unusual nature.

that you think will please others for they may prefer to remain in their own routines.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Now you have the temptation to spend more than you can afford on some temporary pleasure but curb this extravagance and you maintain security.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your associates at your residence are not to your liking and whatever arises show you have patience and think long and hard before making changes.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your investigations into schools of thought under which you can best operate in the future can hit a snag so don't take hasty decisions but take under advisement.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now find that you are apt to be over and under about your present practical condition but put aside for the moment don't let depression get to you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to have bigger results in your personal affairs but instead it is a day to make the best possible use of your present position.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what your intentions are and make them work for you in a manner that you have found works out best in days that are gone by.

Peanuts

YES, SIR... YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY WE'RE BUYING OUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES SO EARLY?

TELL HIM WE'RE TRYING TO CREATE THE ILLUSION THAT WE'RE ANXIOUS TO BECOME EDUCATED...

WE JUST LIKE TO BE PREPARED

MY ANSWER WAS BETTER

© 1975 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Andy Capp

I JUST CAN'T THINK OF WHAT TO BUY HIM FOR HER BIRTHDAY - WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I'VE GOT A LOVELY SURPRISE FOR HER -

I WON'T BE GOING TO HER PARTY - I'VE GOT A SNOOKER MATCH THAT NIGHT

IT'LL OUDO WHATEVER I GET FOR HER

Mutt'n'Jeff

HOW'S OUR NEW STORE DOING, JEFF?

GREAT, MUTT! THE STORE IS PACKED WITH CUSTOMERS!

SOLD OUT?

YEH, WE DIDN'T MAKE ANY MONEY BUT WE DID AN AWFUL LOT OF BUSINESS!

-BUT HOW-

I UNDERSOLD EVERYONE IN TOWN!

CLOSED OUT OF BUSINESS

CLOSED OUT OF BUSINESS

© 1975 PHILIP K. JOHNSON
FIRST EDITION OF THIS COMIC AND
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

THE Daily Crossword

by Melvin Kenworthy

ACROSS
 1 Manner of walking
 5 Port on the Adriatic
 9 Major or Minor
 12 However
 14 Hunter of myth
 15 Lunchtime
 16 ~ about (approximately)
 17 Munich-born, e.g.
 18 One
 19 Carson City's state abbr.
 20 Cole Porter song
 22 Place for an epee
 24 Compete
 25 Spurns
 27 Makes happy
 32 Use
 33 Irish poet
 34 Isle
 35 Backdoor
 38 Far from relaxed
 39 Mow dog
 38 Swiss canton
 38 ~ Be

40 Actor Charles of France
 41 Affecting the body generally
 43 London hub?
 44 Literary monogram
 46 Set of movies
 48 Cole Porter song
 51 Not stinging
 54 Unwritten
 55 1 or 66
 58 Mug
 57 Err~
 58 Monastery man
 59 Sits
 60 Connic Bert
 61 Sky look
 62 Gulp

DOWN
 1 Coruscant
 3 West
 5 Mearn

© 1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
 All Rights Reserved

3 Cole Porter
 4 Son of Odin
 5 Dauntless
 6 Ouse feeder
 7 Fiddler's male?
 8 Introduce as
 9 New
 10 Author Jatte
 11 Earth
 12 Money in the pot
 14 Old Greek coins
 20 Hang loosely
 21 Discumbers
 23 Line a roof
 25 Branch
 26 ~ now and then
 27 Photo finish?
 28 Cobbler's tool
 29 Cole Porter
 30 Gunpowder ingredient
 31 Gaze rudely
 32 Acomizable

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

36 Secular
 37 Tops
 38 Page
 39 Part of n b
 40 Bank employee
 43 Cat-like animal
 45 Engine

47 Grampus
 48 Sweetward
 49 Judicial garment
 50 Gressa, e.g.
 52 Vinograd, et al.
 53 Greek

Potential clash avoided as right-wingers meet Mandela

Johannesburg (AP) — A potential clash involving armed whites and ANC supporters was averted Saturday when Nelson Mandela and neo-Nazi representatives held an unprecedented meeting.

They didn't shake hands during the chat, which lasted just a few minutes and could not be classified as friendly.

Ferrus Munro, deputy commander of the right-wing Afrikaner Resistance Movement in the town of Beaufort West, said he warned Mr. Mandela that "if a hair on the head of a Conservative white is harmed, we will fight back and we will hit hard."

He said Mr. Mandela told him his African National Congress was working for peace. The black leader "does his thing well," Mr. Munro said after the meeting, but he insisted it was an unplanned conversation and did not mark the start of regular talks between the diametrically opposed groups.

Police negotiated the meeting after about 40 heavily armed white extremists gathered outside the Beaufort West Hotel where Mr. Mandela was to attend a campaign breakfast.

When Mr. Mandela arrived, the white crowd swelled to more than 100, some armed with pistols, knives, and rifles.

Mr. Munro was disarmed before being taken into a hotel room for a private talk with Mr. Mandela.

White extremists have vowed to wage war rather than live under a black government, and they are boycotting negotiations

on political reform. The negotiators, who include the ANC and government, have set April 27 as an election date. The ANC, the nation's leading black group, is expected to win the vote.

Meanwhile, South Africa's hardline Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) Saturday vowed to continue its armed struggle until political power is transferred from the white minority to the black majority.

A statement issued here on APLA's 32nd anniversary said "the Azanian People's Liberation Army marks its 32nd birthday with even more determination to fight on until the regime realises that there can be no solution to this conflict short of African majority rule."

The statement, signed by APLA's secretary for publicity and information, Willie Mazambane, came after an agreement was reached between the African National Congress and other negotiators on setting up a Transitional Executive Council which will give blacks political power for the first time.

The first non-racial democratic elections in South Africa are scheduled for April next year.

But APLA said it had taken note of the current negotiations in South Africa and fully backed its political leadership "ing part in the discussions."

APLA proposals include a call for negotiated mutual cessation of hostilities as the stopping of war by all those invol-

and the achievement of peace," the statement added.

The Tanzanian-based guerrilla army has been blamed for attacks on white civilians in South Africa.

It has also been accused by President F. W. de Klerk's government of dragging its feet on its commitment to democratic changes with the aim of prolonging the conflict.

Mr. de Klerk Friday made one of his sharpest attacks yet on Mr. Mandela, saying the African National Congress (ANC) bore a heavy responsibility for political violence in South Africa.

"Mr. Mandela continues to insult and slander me with his statements that I do not care about black lives," Mr. de Klerk said at a meeting opening the Transvaal Congress of the ruling National Party.

Police said Friday that at least 44 people had died in townships east of Johannesburg since Wednesday, when unidentified gunmen slaughtered 21 people queuing for taxis.

Police said they had found 14 more bodies Thursday in Tokoza and Kaitheh, where supporters of the ANC and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) face each other across a narrow dirt corridor.

About 1,200 people have died in Kaitheh and Tokoza since July 2, when multi-party democracy negotiators agreed to hold the country's first all-race election on April 27.

"Every life is precious, every violent death is a tragedy and a dagger in the heart of peace...the

government leaves no stone unturned in its efforts to curtail violence. The same cannot be said of the ANC," Mr. de Klerk said.

He accused the ANC of fomenting strife by persisting in a policy of marginalising Inkatha.

Earlier, Mr. Mandela said in the black township of Soweto southwest of Johannesburg that talks on the country's transition to democracy had broken through a psychological barrier.

"Despite the spoilers...the process has shown that it has the capacity to arrive at clear decisions," he said, referring to the adoption of a bill for a Transitional Executive Council (TEC).

"The forces of darkness, of lawless apartheid rule, and mindless violence, are being forced into retreat."

Mr. Mandela called on "spoilers to return negotiations," a clear reference to Inkatha and the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, both of which quit the talks over the setting of the election date.

"Let us resolve our differences around the table. The country expects this of us. Those who talk of civil war do no care for the lives of our people and for the economy," he told a conference of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), representing more than a million workers.

Mr. Buthelezi, who ordered the IFP and Kwazulu homeland delegations out of the multi-party forum in July, said Thursday the setting up of the TEC would cause more unrest.



Black National Party supporters welcome President F. W. de Klerk and his wife Marike (right) at the party's congress east of Johannesburg (AFP photo)

Car bomb kills 8 in central New Delhi

NEW DELHI (R) — Eight people were killed in a car bomb attempt on the life of the Sikh president of the youth wing of India's ruling Congress Party in central New Delhi Saturday, police said.

Police told Reuters some 45 people, about a dozen of them security men, were injured when a bomb exploded in an empty van parked outside the Youth Congress office in Raisina Road near parliament.

"It looks like it was a remote-controlled device," Delhi Police Chief Mukund Bihari Kaushal told reporters.

Another senior police officer, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters the bomb was a clear attempt on the life of Youth Congress President Maninder Singh Bitta.

Sikh militants fighting for a separate Sikh state in Punjab, which Mr. Bitta opposes, were the most likely suspects, the officer said.

A dazed Bitta told Reuters. Sikh militants, whose campaign has faded dramatically in the past six months, had tried 11 times before to kill him but he could not be certain this was the 12th attempt.

"We were just coming away from the office when there was a huge explosion," Mr. Bitta said. He was later taken to hospital to be treated for leg and head injuries, but did not appear to be seriously hurt.

Police said an escort car full of Mr. Bitta's security guards was one of about 10 vehicles virtually destroyed by a blast which shattered windows in nearby buildings, including the five-star Meridien Hotel popular with tourists.

One or two security guards in the escort car were among those killed, they said.

Witnesses said a packed bus had just passed the empty van when it blew up. Some people aboard were injured but if the bomb had gone off a fraction of a second earlier, the toll would have been dramatically higher, they said.

Mr. Bitta was just leaving for lunch at his regular time when the bomb exploded, Youth Congress worker Upendra Singh Bharati said.

Meanwhile, Indian troops killed or wounded at least six tribal separatists in a raid on a guerrilla base in the northeast Indian state of Nagaland Friday, military

sources said.

They said parachute commandos stormed a base of the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) at Nuland near Dimapur, about 50 kilometres west of the state capital Kohima, early Friday.

"We have hit a major base and we still have reports of stray clashes from the Nuland area," said an army officer in Kohima, contacted by telephone Assam.

He said at least six rebels belonging to the Muivah-Isaac faction of the NSCN had been killed or injured. Others were trying to escape.

In a separate development, at least six Maoist extremists and a paramilitary policeman were killed in a clash in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh that lasted more than 24 hours, police said Saturday.

They said dozens of heavily armed policemen surrounded the village of Padkal in the northern part of the state Thursday night. Authorities had received a tip-off that a band of the People's War Group (PWG), known in India as Naxalites after the town where the movement was founded, was hiding there.

Abiola's delay fuels talk of Nigerian deal

LAGOS (R) — Thwarted presidential hopeful Musho Abiola's decision to delay his homecoming is reinforcing the view there are quiet moves to resolve Nigeria's political crisis, diplomats and political sources said Saturday.

Nigeria's unelected interim government said in a statement in the capital Abuja Friday that Mr. Abiola agreed, after contacts with interim head of state Ernest Shonekan, not to return Sunday as planned so as not to disrupt public order.

The statement came after the electoral commission and the two political parties announced they had agreed to hold a fresh presidential and local council elections on Feb. 19, 1994.

The statement surprised Abiola aides, who had mobilised thousands of people to welcome him at Lagos Airport Sunday.

"It's a shock after all the preparations and I regret his decision to postpone his return," one aide said. But Olisa Agbakoba, president

of the Civil Liberties Organisation, a key affiliate of the umbrella Campaign for Democracy (CD) which is pressuring Mr. Shonekan to turn over power to Mr. Abiola, said a deal appeared to be in the making.

CD organised protests against the nullification of the June 12 presidential election, widely believed to have been won by Mr. Abiola. It plans more action ahead of Oct. 1, the day it says Mr. Shonekan must hand over power to the business tycoon.

Two weeks ago after former military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida precipitated a national crisis by annulling the June 12 presidential poll.

Mr. Abiola has been abroad for the past six weeks mobilising international support for his claim to the presidency.

"Abiola could not have agreed to stay away if he wasn't convinced there is something to be gained," a Western diplomat said.

Mr. Shonekan's interim administration has been criticised as an extension of Mr. Babangida's government but the former military leader's influence may be waning.

General Sani Abacha, who was the most powerful person in Gen. Babangida's administration and has retained his position as defence secretary, last week reversed key military appointments made by the former ruler.

"The view gaining ground is that Abacha wants to be the man of the moment and is prepared to allow June 12 but needs time to move Gen. Babangida's people out," said Mr. Agbakoba. "I think we'll be seeing an Abacha, Shonekan and Abiola deal."

Several diplomats said they had heard of the possibility of Mr. Shonekan appointing a judicial panel to consider the conduct of the June 12 vote and taking a decision based on its finding.

Mr. Shonekan and Mr. Abiola both hail from the Yoruba-speaking southwestern region.

Turkey, U.S. have 'similar' Karabakh views

ANKARA (Agencies) — The U.S. policy coordinator for the former Soviet Union has said that Washington's views on the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan mirrored Turkey's.

"I was struck by how close our positions are on Nagorno-Karabakh. I would say virtually identical," Strobe Talbott, top reporter after talks with prime minister Tansu Ciller. Mr. Talbott did not elaborate.

Turkey has urged international action to reverse Armenian advances into Azeri territory, but has stopped short of providing military help to its ethnic kin in Azerbaijan.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was reported to have written to his Armenian counterpart a week ago to say that no reasons could justify a recent offensive by Karabakh Armenian forces outside the borders of the disputed enclave.

"We call on Armenia to make sure that the latest U.N. resolutions are carried out, and also to secure a more constructive approach by Karabakh Armenians at peace talks," said the letter, released by the Armenian Foreign Ministry.

The truce, which had been due to expire Friday, was extended until Sunday the separatist "foreign ministry" in the enclave's main city Stepanakert told the Interfax News Agency.

The prolongation was intended to ensure a meeting scheduled here Sunday between the separatists' self-declared foreign minister, Artak Bakhshian, and the deputy speaker of the Azerbaijani parliament Afshadiddin Dzhalilov went ahead, the ministry said.

Separatist authorities said the

extension of the truce had been agreed with Azerbaijan although Baku, which does not recognise the Stepanakert administration, has never confirmed negotiating a ceasefire.

A meeting here Wednesday between representatives of both sides was cancelled when the Azerbaijani delegation failed to turn up.

But talks between the parties were held here behind closed doors Thursday and Friday under the auspices of the nine-nation "Minsk Group" of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which is trying to broker an end to hostilities and a withdrawal of Armenian and separatist forces from captured areas of Azerbaijan.

Feedback from the talks was limited to a comment from Russian representative Vladimir Kazimirov, who told the ITAR-TASS agency that parties were "calmly" clarifying their positions.

Russia warned Iran Friday to refrain from shows of force along its border with Azerbaijan and said Iran troop incursions into Azerbaijan risked spreading the conflict in the region to other countries.

"We have made clear that certain actions from the Iranian side, whatever their reasons, will meet with neither understanding nor support from Russia," Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin said at a briefing for reporters.

"The fact that Iranian troops have crossed the Azerbaijani border contributes not only to an escalation of the conflict (with Armenia) but pushes it to dangerous limits of internationalisation," Mr. Karasin said.

Premier is richest in Japanese cabinet

TOKYO (R) — Japan's new prime minister is not only the classiest member of his cabinet, he is also the richest, according to a list of their assets published Friday. Known as "the lord" because he is descended from a Samurai family and would have been a duke if Japan had not abolished the aristocracy in 1945, Morihiro Hosokawa declared holdings of 1.3 billion yen (\$12.2 million). This made him the wealthiest of the 21 members of his month-old cabinet, who declared their assets in accordance with a tradition begun by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1984. The bulk of Mr. Hosokawa's declared assets was in wooded mountain land valued at around 900 million yen (\$8.5 million) in Karuzawa, a high-class summer resort north of Tokyo. Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii was the second richest cabinet member with 877 million yen (\$8.27 million), and Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi was in third place with 473 million yen (\$4.46 million). Poorest was Posts and Telecommunications Minister Takenori Kamekura, a member of the Buddhist-backed Komeito Party, who reported only one million yen (\$9,400) in personal assets. The cabinet's combined total of 5.5 billion yen (\$51.8 million) in personal assets was only a quarter of the figure announced by the previous cabinet of Liberal Democratic Party Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Fire forces evacuations at World Trade Centre

NEW YORK (AP) — A two-alarm fire broke out Friday on the 59th floor of one of the World Trade Centre's twin towers, forcing the evacuation of several floors, authorities said. The cause of the fire was unknown, although it did not appear to be a bombing or terrorist act, said Frank McCabe, a Fire Department spokesman. More than 20 units and 120 firefighters responded to a report of a fire at No. 1 World Trade Centre at 3 p.m. (1900 GMT), Mr. McCabe said. Three floors above and three floors below the 59th were evacuated, he said.

Symphony musicians honour picket line

WASHINGTON (AP) — Musicians in the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) refused to cross another orchestra's picket line at the Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts, forcing cancellation of two concerts. Conductor-violinist Marvin Hamlisch arrived in Washington Friday to perform with the National Symphony but returned to New York when the musicians did not report to an afternoon rehearsal, said NSO spokeswoman Patricia O'Kelly. The symphony musicians were showing their solidarity with the 67-member Opera House Orchestra, which has been on strike against the Kennedy Centre since Sept. 1.

Bardot: Japanese, S. Koreans fish illegally

PARIS (R) — Japanese and South Korean boats use fishing lines as long as 40 nautical miles to catch red tuna in the Mediterranean, animal rights advocate Brigitte Bardot said. The fishermen are flouting European Community limits on the length of lines and each boat catches up to 250 tonnes each day of red tuna, prized in Asia, the former film star said in a statement. The daily Le Figaro said the vessels were operating in Italian and Spanish waters. Rene Vestri, mayor of the French Mediterranean port of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat and president of the ocean preservation group SOS-Grand Bleu, said European fishermen "oppose this deliberate massacre which only benefits countries whose economic interests have nothing to do with the Mediterranean or Europe."

Earn a Cambridge degree by watching

HANOI (AP) — English is making further inroads into Vietnam, with Cambridge University teaming up with state television and the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) to air an English language teaching programme nationwide. A memorandum of cooperation due to be signed next Tuesday calls for Vietnam Television to produce 40 programmes for Vietnamese based on the BBC's "Starting Business English" series. Broadcasts will start in January. BP South-East Asia Ltd. will pay the BBC's license fee, the British oil company's Hanoi office said in a statement issued Friday. The University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate would help Vietnamese universities organise examinations based on the broadcasts.

Aspin holds high-level talks with NATO leaders

BRUSSELS (APF) — U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin held talks here Saturday with senior U.S. military officials and European experts on regional defence policy as part of a programme of worldwide consultations.

U.S. officials said NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, the alliance's top general and the Pentagon's senior European strategist were taking part in the discussions at the home of U.S. NATO Ambassador Robert Hunter.

Mr. Aspin arrived at the start of a whirlwind European swing that will also take him to Germany and Italy before heading back to Washington Sunday night for the signing Monday of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

U.S. Navy Commander J. Thurwanger, a Pentagon spokesman, said Mr. Aspin was holding the high-level discussions on European defence policy Saturday as the first in a series of regional consultations around the world.

Commander Thurwanger said the talks would likely include the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, but were basically aimed at a broader look at issues and trends. "The goal is better, more coordinated policy formulation," he said.

But diplomatic sources said Mr. Aspin would also have informal talks with Mr. Woerner, the chief executive of the 16-member NATO alliance which is working on plans for policing an eventual peace accord in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Among those participating in Saturday's consultations were Charles Freeman, assistant defence secretary for Europe, Edward Warner, assistant secretary for strategy, and Joseph Krusez, deputy assistant for European and NATO policy.

On the military side, the talks included General Charles Boyd,

deputy commander of U.S. forces in Europe, and Admiral Jeremy Boorda, commander of NATO forces in Southern Europe.

General John Shalikashvili, NATO's supreme commander, who is due to become the United States' next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was also invited but it was not clear if he could attend, Commander Thurwanger said.

The consultations also included several European defence experts who were in Brussels for the annual conference of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), which Mr. Aspin will address Sunday morning.

The U.S. defence chief will also be in Brussels for a visit to the American Air Force Base near Frankfurt, Germany, from which U.S. planes take off on missions to air drop relief supplies in Bosnia.

He will then fly to Rome to talk with his Italian counterpart Giulio Fabbri, which are likely to include discussion of differences between Rome and Washington over the handling of the U.N. mission in Somalia.

Mr. Woerner called Friday for a stronger European role in the Western alliance and said the time had come to make a move toward East European countries interested in joining.

Mr. Woerner said Europe must be wary of allowing the American public to believe the continent was failing to defend its own interests, adding this would make the U.S. leadership more reluctant to get involved in the region.

"Indeed, far from being a threat to NATO's survival, a greater European role in the pre-condition of its longer-term vitality," Mr. Woerner said in a speech to the IISS.

"NATO is not a closed club," Mr. Woerner said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Norway may swing left in vote

OSLO (R) — Opinion polls Saturday showed Norway's ruling Labour Party likely to keep its grip on power in an election in which voters may swing left in defiance of European trends since the end of the cold war. The polls, in the dailies Aftenposten and Nærings, gave the Labour Party of Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland 36.2 and 35.2 per cent of the vote respectively, in line with recent polls and up from 34.3 per cent at the last election in 1989. Earlier this summer, Labour support fell to a historic 30-year low of under 30 per cent. Mrs. Brundtland is tipped to keep power by continuing "slalom skiing" in parliament — creating shifting alliances with smaller parties to win majorities. She is helped by signs of economic recovery and lack of a credible political alternative.

Vietnam hopes for the best

HANOI (APF) — Vietnam hopes the U.S. trade embargo will be allowed to lapse into history when it comes up for annual renewal Tuesday but says it will soldier on irrespective of what U.S. President Bill Clinton decides. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, quoted Saturday by the official press, pledged that Vietnam's door would remain open to American companies even if Mr. Clinton extends the sanctions in effect since the Vietnam War. But U.S. business people voiced frustration at the embargo, which has been progressively since December 1991 but still bars U.S. firms from earning money in Vietnam where their competitors are increasingly active. Mr. Clinton, faced with the popular belief that American prisoners of war were left behind in Vietnam or Laos, has conditioned any steps toward normal relations with Hanoi on "concrete progress" in accounting for U.S. servicemen missing-in-action from the Vietnam War.

Shevardnadze may declare emergency

TBILISI (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has said he will probably declare a state of emergency to safeguard the unity of his chronically unstable former Soviet Republic. In an emotional address Friday night, Mr. Shevardnadze said Georgia, riven by conflict for the past year and a half, must reject "the language of the gun." "On Sunday I will probably declare a state of emergency. A state of emergency means order. Things cannot get any worse than they are now," the former Soviet foreign minister said. Georgia has lurched from one conflict to the next since winning independence when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. No sooner had Mr. Shevardnadze clinched a peace deal to end a year of civil war in the Black Sea region of Abkhazia than fighting broke out again last month in another western region, Mingrelia. Supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was democratically elected in 1991 but later ousted in a rebellion, have taken control of several towns. Talks with the government side ended this week in stalemate.

Talks fail to end N. Ireland stalemate

LONDON (R) — The British and Irish governments called Friday for an urgent revival of Northern Ireland peace negotiations after a wave of extremist violence, but could offer little hope of early talks. A surge of brutal attacks by Protestant gunmen has underlined the absence of agreement on the political future of the British-ruled province. Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew and Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, meeting in London to discuss the violence, said in a statement they agreed on "the urgency and importance" of resuming negotiations. But Sir Patrick admitted that officials were still trying to woo participants back to the negotiations table and his meeting with Mr. Spring had made no practical progress.

Cuba calls in ambassadors

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's Foreign Ministry called an urgent meeting with foreign ambassadors in Cuba Friday after two groups of Cubans sought political asylum at the Mexican and Brazilian embassies in Havana. Mexico's Foreign Ministry said 11 Cubans — six men, four women and one child — had entered the country's embassy in Havana's Miramar district Thursday and asked for passage to Mexico. The ministry, in conjunction with the Cuban government, "it said in a brief news release issued in Mexico City. On Friday morning four Cubans entered the Brazilian diplomatic mission and also asked for political asylum. The Brazilian ambassador told them he could not grant it because they did not present sufficient evidence to justify their request under international conventions, a Brazilian embassy spokesman told Reuters. The four left peacefully after half an hour, he added.

Pope returns to Italy after Baltics tour

ROME (R) — Pope John Paul returned to Italy after his first visit to the former Soviet Union. The plane carrying the Pope and his entourage arrived at Rome's Ciampino Airport at 2025 GMT after a flight from Tallin, Estonia. During his week-long visit the Pope visited the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

July 1993

Bubka crowns another triumphant season U.S. Open

LONDON (AFP) — Ukrainian pole-vaulter Sergey Bubka narrowly missed his 35th world record Friday night, but he more than made up for the failure by banking athletics' biggest ever cheque of \$130,000.

The four-time world champion lifted the overall IAAF Grand Prix prize of \$100,000 plus the \$30,000 on offer for winning the event after warming the self-out 23,000 crowd on a cold, windy night with another outstanding display.

With his lucrative double assured after a leap of 6.05 metres, Bubka tried three times for 6.14, but knocked off the bar each time and in the end had to be content with beating his own United Kingdom all-comers' record.

"It was a good serious competition, but the weather wasn't perfect for pole-vaulting," he said. "It was very dangerous."

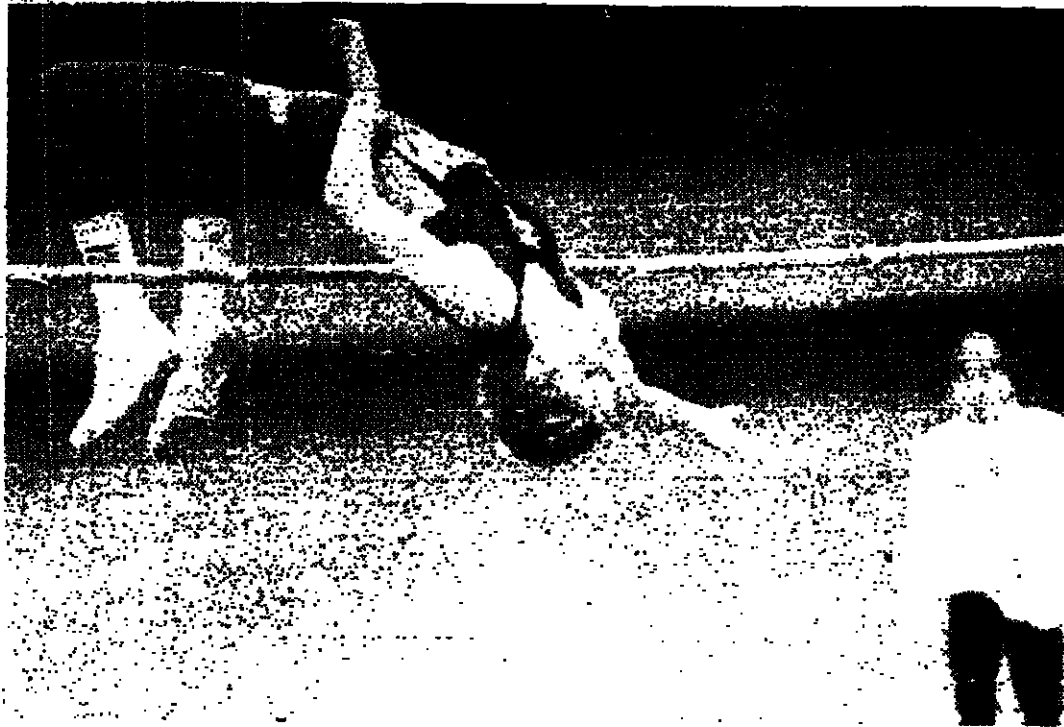
"But I'm very satisfied. I was very close to the world record all three times, especially on the last jump."

Bubka's achievement was enough to beat Algerian middle-distance master Noureddine Morceli, Czech javelin-thrower Jan Zelezny, British hurdler Colin Jackson, American long-jumper Mike Powell and Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks for athletics' pot of money.

All five won their events, but their performances were not of a high enough quality to deny Bubka his biggest pay day, although Powell came within 2cm of running the Ukrainian's night.

That was how far the American world record-holder stepped over the line in his final leap of 8.91m to record a new jump.

The women's \$150,000 pay-out went to American 400m hurdler Sandra Farmer-Patrick, who pipped Irish runner Sonia O'Sullivan, Bulgarian high-jumper



Bulgarian high-jumper Stefka Kostadinova

Stefka Kostadinova and Mozambique 800m runner Maria Mutola with her time of 53.69sec.

The flamboyant American also exacted some revenge over world and Olympic champion Sally Gunnell, who was also in line to cash in until finishing second to Farmer-Patrick by a stride.

"The World Championship is the world championship, but it was definitely much more rewarding tonight. I feel I'm now even with Sally. At last I'm starting to feel like a 400-metre hurdler."

O'Sullivan must wonder what she feels like after an extraordinary night in which she collected \$100,000 after coming second overall, first in the 3,000 metres and runner-up in the mile. This followed hot on the heels

of her big night in Brussels last Friday, when she won four gold bars. Last year the world 1500 metres silver medalist reckoned she could afford to carry on a full-time track career.

The crowd's biggest disappointment was the absence of Olympic and world champion Linford Christie, who had to pull out of an invitation 100m because of influenza. American Leroy Burrell cashed in by winning easily in 10.28sec.

World champion breaks record In Peking China's Qu Yunxia, the women's 3,000m world champion, shattered the 1,500m world record at the national championships Saturday, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Qu, who had led home China's historic 1-2-3 finish in Stuttgart, made more history by clocking 3min 58.64sec to wipe nearly two seconds off the old record of 3:52.47 set by Russia's Tatyana Kazankina in August, 1988.

Kazankina's record, set in Zurich for the Soviet Union, was the oldest standing record in women's athletics.

Better still, Qu's victory here came at the expense of Wang Junxia, the 10,000m world champion who stunned the world earlier in the week by knocking an astonishing 42sec off the record for the distance.

And in an all-star finish, third place went Lin Dong, the 1,500m world champion in Stuttgart.

Bob's Return wins St. Legers classic

DONCASTER, England (R) — Trainer Mark Tompkins won the first horse racing classic of his career when Bob's Return, the 3-1 favourite, galloped his eight rivals into total submission in the English St. Legers Saturday.

Ridden by Philip Robinson, Bob's Return took up the running with nearly three furlongs (600 metres) left to win by three-and-a-half lengths from 4-1 chance Armiger, the mount of Pat Eddery.

Eddery, a 25-1 outsider, made late progress to snatch third place under Jockey Willie Ryan.

Bob's Return was bought as a 13th wedding anniversary gift in 1991 for owner Jackie Smith by her husband George.

"It's incredible. I can't believe it," she said. The colt had been fancied for the Epsom Derby in June after winning his warm-up race but could only finish sixth to Commander in Chief.

However, a fluent six lengths success at York last month advertised the colt's Legers prospects and Jockey Robinson made no mistake. Eddery made much of the running on Armiger but had no answer when Bob's Return swept by to strike a blow for Tompkins, one of Newmarket's lesser lights.

Henry Cecil, trainer of Armiger and Eddery, also ran Danish Fort in a typically powerful bid, while John Gosden, another Newmarket trainer, also sent out three runners.

But victory went to Tompkins who grew up near Doncaster in the northern city of Sheffield.

Hernando tunes up for the Arc

In Paris today, quality racing at Longchamp includes three recognised Prix de La Arc De Triomphe trials.

Chavez, Whitaker fight to draw

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) — Pernell Whitaker retained his WBC welterweight championship Friday night, fighting to a 12-round draw with unbeaten Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico.

Judges Mickey Vann of England and Ernie Marti of Switzerland scored the fight a 115-115 draw, while Jack Woodward of the United States gave it to Whitaker 115-113. The two draw verdicts won out, leaving the question of which fighter is better to another day.

"I felt I won the fight," Chavez said. "It is a win for me because the public will decide," Whitaker said. "I am glad millions of viewers saw this one."

Whitaker compared the loss to a controversial disqualification of Evander Holyfield in the 1984 Olympic light-heavyweight semi-finals.

"I feel like Evander did in the Olympics when they ripped him off for the gold medal," Whitaker said. "They robbed me of the gold in this one."

Chavez is now 87-0-1 with 75 knockouts. The 31-year-old retained WBC super lightweight crown. Whitaker, 29, is now 32-1-1 with 15 knockouts.

Promoter Don King called for a rematch while Lou Duva, Whitaker's co-manager, was among many questioning the outcome. "He should have got the win so they gave him a draw," Duva said.

The fight was worth a minimum three million dollars for Whitaker and between 3.5 and five million dollars for Chavez. Because nothing was settled, a rematch promises even more.

Chavez said he was upset Whitaker was allowed to clutch and grab by referee Joe Cortez.

"I am not happy with that referee. I did everything I could to force him to fight me, but he would not."

VILLA FOR RENT OR SALE

Excellent location in Sweifish. Master bedroom suite, 4 bedrooms, living room, family room and office room, big kitchen and a drawing room. Fireplace, central heating, A.C. in bedrooms. Built-in Bar. B.Q. outside, with nice landscaping. Tel. Installed. Please call 715720 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sukova, Graf to face off in final

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Helena Sukova made mistakes, but Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's errors cost more as the 12th seeded Czech won in three sets Friday to reach the final of the U.S. Open tennis championships.

Sukova, who was runner-up here in 1986 and a semi-finalist in '87, came back from a first-set tie-break loss, a wobbly second set and a rain delay to win 6-7 (7/9), 7-5, 6-2.

She became the lowest women's seed to reach the U.S. Open final since Pam Shriver, who was the 16th seed when she finished runner-up to Chris Evert in 1978.

She will meet world number one and top seed Steffi Graf, who defeated Swiss Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere 4-6, 6-1, 6-0.

Graf had a rocky start against the 11th seed, the eighth game of the first set went to deuce 11 times, with Maleeva-Fragniere finally winning on her ninth game point.

While Graf never wavered once she assumed control, there were times against Sanchez Vicario when Sukova looked as if she might never pull it off.

In the first set she had a set point in the 10th game, but dropped her serve to fall level at 5-5.

In the tie-breaker, she had two more set points at 6-4. "I had so many chances and I did not make any of them."

Despite Sukova's lapses, Sanchez Vicario could not find a way around her.

Sukova's ability to dominate the net made it difficult for the Spaniard to pass.

Instead she tried coming to the net to finish off the points, but with little success.

"It was not my best day," Sanchez Vicario said. "I hit a lot of balls with the frame and a lot of balls went very long."

Sukova closed out the match with a service break on her second match point when Sanchez Vicario netted a forehand service return.

She lined up her 21st meetings with Graf. Of their 20 previous encounters, Graf has won 19. Sukova's only victory over the



Helena Sukova

German came in 1983 on grass at Brisbane, Australia, Graf was 14 years old then.

The women's final will be played in between the two men's semi-finals.

Frenchman Cedric Pioline, the 15th seed, will meet unseeded Australian Wally Masur in one match, and second-seeded Pete Sampras faces 14th-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia in the other.

Sukova and Sanchez Vicario team up in the women's doubles semi-finals against Natalia Zvereva of Belarus and American Gigi Fernandez.

Zvereva and Fernandez are going for the doubles Grand Slam after victories at the Australian

Open, French Open and Wimbledon.

Sukova already has one doubles title to her credit here. She won the mixed championship with Australian Todd Woodbridge on Thursday.

In the men's doubles final Ken Flach and Rick Leach of the United States defeated Czechs Martin Damm and Karel Novacek 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-2.

Maleeva-Fragniere leaves with style

If this was good-bye for Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, she left with style and grace. Beaten in the women's semi-

als of the U.S. Open by No. 1 seed Steffi Graf Friday night, Maleeva-Fragniere was playing centre court at the National Tennis Centre for the last time. She has announced her retirement from tennis after this year.

It had been a memorable two weeks for her that started out ominously when she broke her left pinky warming up for a doubles match. She withdrew from the doubles tournament and then unexpectedly reached the semi-finals at the Open for the second straight year.

"Everything fell in place," she said. "Match after match, I couldn't be more perfect. I felt great on the court. I was not nervous. I was happy on the court. It's been a long time since I had that feeling."

Despite the euphoria of the moment, the 26-year-old Maleeva-Fragniere said she would not be back.

"I don't think so," she said. "I wish I could be. It feels so good." Her mind, however, is made up. And she seems determined not to change it.

"Only after match point did I think about it," she said. "I thought, 'it's over. The U.S. Open is over.' I felt a great satisfaction within myself that I have not felt in many years. Happiness of being on the court, realising what good tennis means."

"Tennis has taught me a lot of things — self-discipline, courage, toughness and these are the things I can carry throughout my life. These are the things tennis taught me and I am grateful for it. I think I grew up, matured on the tennis tour."

Over the years, Maleeva-Fragniere, the oldest of the three tennis playing Maleeva sisters, has been something of an enigma, often looking pained when she played.

"People have often told me that I look sad on the court," she said. "I would like them to know that I have always been happy on the court. I have been happy all my life and tennis has given me a lot and I'm proud of what I've achieved."

Prost on pole as Berger escapes unhurt

MONZA, Italy (R) — Gerhard Berger escaped unhurt from a high-speed crash as Alain Prost completed the formalities of claiming pole position Saturday for the Italian Grand Prix.

The Williams' driver's excellent performance on a dry track at the Autodromo Nazionale Di Monza was overshadowed by Berger's collision with Ferrari teammate Jean Alesi.

The crash came after the chequered flag at the end of the session when it appeared that Berger was on a flying lap while Alesi was slowing and waving to the crowd.

Alesi, seeing Berger's car late, moved across at the Variante Ascari and cut into Berger's path, damaging the front end of his F93A badly.

Berger's car then flew out of control and spun across the chicane and sandtrap before ramming the tyre-protected steel barriers.

Berger was lifted from the car but after recovering he was able to walk away without assistance.

Prost clocked a record qualifying lap time of one minute 21.179 seconds to eclipse the best efforts of his teammate Damon Hill.

Victory in Sunday's race would seal the Frenchman's fourth world drivers' title.

Hill, seeking his third successive Formula One victory, finished with a best time of 1:21.491. This left him sharing the front row of the grid with Prost whose pole was the 32nd of his career.

Alesi, thrilling the sparse crowd with his on-the-limit driving style, was third fastest in a car specially equipped for the session with new Ferrari V12 engines.

Ayrton Senna, Prost's most serious contender for the title, was fourth fastest in his McLaren ahead of Michael Schumacher in a Benetton.

Berger finished sixth fastest in the second Ferrari.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HERSCH
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

DOUBLY UNFORTUNATE

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
* K Q 7
♦ 10 2
♥ A K 9 7 6 5
♠ 9 4

WEST EAST
♠ 10 9 6 5 ♠ A K 9 7 5
♥ 8 6 3 ♥ A K 9 7 5
♦ Void ♦ Q J 10 8 2
♣ Q 8 6 5 3 2 ♣ A J

SOUTH
♠ A J 4 3
♥ Q J 4
♦ Q 4 3
♣ K 10 7

The bidding:
East South West North
1♥ Pass Pass 2♥
Pass 3NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
Assume the kibitzer's chair at a high-level rubber bridge game. North-South reach three no trump on the auction shown. Note South's decision to pass East's one-heart opening bid on a flat 13 points.

West led the three of hearts and East took the king and ace, then cleared the suit by continuing with a low heart. Declarer won and discarded a club from dummy. To protect against four diamonds with West, declarer cashed the queen of diamonds and West's club discard.

was a rude shock. Four rounds of spades forced a heart and a club discard from East and, although declarer read the position by leading a low club to East's now blank ace, there was no entry to the closed hand to cash the king. East was able to exit with the jack of diamonds and the defenders eventually came to three heart tricks and one in each minor — down one.

We trust you have followed the play carefully. Was this a normal result, or did someone err? If so, who?

It's not easy to spot the slight slip. It occurred at trick three, when declarer discarded an apparently useless club from the table. Instead, declarer should not have worried about overtricks and parted with a diamond.

Now, when South learns of the four-spade tricks, declarer can capitalize on East's forced discard of a heart. After crossing to the king of diamonds, declarer leads a club. East must rise with the ace, and can do no better than cash one heart winner. As long as South preserves dummy's second club as a means of communication, nine tricks are there — four spades, one heart, three diamonds and a club.

CONCORD
Tel.: 677420
CONCORD 1
PASSENGER 57
CONCORD 2
LAST ACTION HERO
SHOWS: 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15

PLAZA
Tel.: 699238
Adel Imari
in
Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal
play
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

PHILADELPHIA
Tel.: 634144
Robert Redford
Demi Moore — In
INDECENT PROPOSAL
A special show for children at 11 a.m.
Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays
Problem Child 2
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
Tel.: 675571
presents a play entitled:
Al ilm Nuron
A popular political comedy
Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel,
Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali
In addition to other comedians
Every night at 8:15
Tickets are sold all day

Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
AHLAN THEATRE
Returns to you Thursday Aug.
26 in the play:
Arab Summit
Conference

PLO committee, including Farouk Kaddoumi, to chart next phase in peace strategy

By Sama Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — A high-ranking Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) committee, headed by its Chairman Yasser Arafat, has been formed to study the next phase in Palestinian strategy after Israel's recognition of the PLO, a senior Palestinian official said Saturday.

Speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, the source said that the committee's formation in Tunis Friday was a first step towards studying the "tremendous challenges" the Palestinian leadership will face after the agreement for limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho goes into effect. The source said that the committee would deal with internal Palestinian issues expected to arise during the interim period in the occupied territories.

In addition to Mr. Arafat, the committee includes PLO Executive Committee members Yasser Abed Rabbo, Suleiman Najjab, Yasser Amr, Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi and Farouk Kaddoumi.

The membership of Mr. Kaddoumi, the head of the PLO's Foreign Affairs Department, came as a surprise since he had earlier issued a strongly worded statement opposing the terms of the PLO-Israeli agreement saying they "infringed on the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

But sources close to Mr. Kaddoumi in Tunis were quoted on Saturday as saying that despite his strong opposition to the two agreements, he had no plans to resign from the Executive Committee.

Palestinian analysts close to the PLO expect that after publicly declaring his opposition to the recognition and self-rule agreements, Mr. Kaddoumi will try to influence Mr. Arafat's future decisions, especially over risks the PLO could face in implementing the Oslo accord.

Meanwhile, the PLO leadership has been urged to strengthen the committee formed on Friday by including intellectuals and experts from the occupied territories and from the diaspora, according to the source.

In order to know what the PLO is about to face inside the occupied territories after being physically distant for more than 25 years, Palestinian analysts said that leaders from the West Bank and Gaza must take an active role in such a committee.

The source said that Mr. Arafat



Farouk Kaddoumi

fat was urged to expand the committee to establish specialised sub-committees to study the different challenges the Palestinians will face during the interim self-rule period, and to adopt new policies that would guarantee the success of the agreement and create new realities that could achieve Palestinian national rights in the final settlement.

The committee will be responsible for working out plans to deal with the spheres of authority the Palestinians will take over from the Israeli authorities, such as education, health, social welfare, taxation and tourism.

In addition, the PLO is expected to study and draw out plans for the activities of the Palestinian police force and the economy. It is also expected to adopt new policies in dealing with Palestinian opposition.

According to Tayseer Arouri of the Palestine People's Party (communist) and advisor to the peace negotiating team, the way Palestinian leadership handles the next three years will determine the outcome of the final settlement.

"The text of the self-rule agreement provides many opportunities for the Palestinians," Mr. Arouri said. "But these opportunities must be utilised in the best possible way to benefit from in the next three years."

Voicing a widespread concern about how the PLO would handle the economic development and opposition in the West Bank and Gaza, Dr. Arouri, who was expelled from the West Bank by the Israelis in 1989, insisted that the key to the success of the interim period was Palestinian democracy.

"The basis of all Palestinian

activities in the occupied territories in the next three to five years should be democratic," he said. "Only real democracy will determine whether this agreement turns out to be a success or a total catastrophe for Palestinian national rights in the end."

An important element for the interim period to succeed and lead to achieving Palestinian national rights, analysts said, is to include Palestinian leaders and intellectuals from the occupied territories where they would hold responsible positions in the decision-making body of the PLO.

After living under Israeli occupation for more than two decades, Palestinians "know better how to deal with the Israeli mentality and create new realities that could never be accomplished by those who lived in Beirut or Tunis," according to a Palestinian activist from the West Bank.

Palestinian opposition is one issue that poses a serious challenge to the PLO leadership, particularly at a time when the controversial "Gaza-Jericho first" agreement added to resignations from the Executive Committee (see separate story).

According to Labib Kamhawi, a political analyst who strongly opposes the peace process and the PLO-Israeli agreement on self-rule, the PLO "does not exist anymore and has been reduced to a few guys."

Describing the "Gaza-Jericho first" agreement as a "catastrophe," Dr. Kamhawi insisted that "little can be done at this stage to minimise Palestinian losses."

"Policing the Palestinians by Israelis is quite painful," Dr. Kamhawi told the Jordan Times. "Arafat has exchanged the PLO credibility and popular trust for Israeli and U.S. backing, has manipulated the Palestinian people and made a mockery of PLO institutions. And, at the end of the day, it will backfire at Arafat."

In his letter of recognition of Israel, Mr. Arafat said that the PLO "renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations and discipline violators."

Mr. Arouri stressed that in order to succeed, the model for self-rule provided in Gaza and Jericho must be "modern, efficient, tolerant, democratic and have tangible economic plans that can solve people's problems."



Palestinian children wave flags in a street of East Jerusalem (AFP photo)

PLO: Deal will not end intifada and Israel will freeze settlement

Combined agency dispatches

THE PEACE accord drawn up between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will not put an end to the Palestinian intifada and Israel has undertaken to freeze its settlement activities in the occupied territories, PLO officials say.

The uprising was a "peaceful popular rejection of the occupation" and "will only end with the end of the occupation," PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said in an interview with Radio France International (RFI).

The PLO and Israel formally recognised each other on Friday, and are due to sign an autonomy accord for the Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho, on the West Bank, in Washington Monday.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in a letter to Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst who brokered the dramatic breakthrough, called for an end to violence in the occupied territories — effectively signalling for a halt to the intifada, which has seen more than 1,100 Palestinians shot dead by Israelis and 171 Israelis killed by Palestinians.

Mr. Abed Rabbo denied Mr. Arafat had signed a document pledging to put an end to the uprising.

He said that after the accord was signed Mr. Arafat would address the Palestinian people, informing them of the contents of the agreement, and would call for "reciprocal measures among Palestinians and Israelis for a normalisation of the situation."

These would include an end to the "isolation" of Jerusalem, the liberation of Palestinian detainees, and a return of Palestinian exiles, he said.

Dismissing the idea of a "civil war" in the occupied territories between Palestinians and for and

against the accord, he said the Palestinian people were "totally behind" the agreement.

In Washington, another PLO official said the PLO has received a tacit commitment from Israel to freeze Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Nabil Shaath, explaining the Israel-PLO agreement, also spoke of Palestinians being allowed to run their own institutions in East Jerusalem.

The agreement to be signed on Monday at the White House covers a five-year interim period of self-rule and delays negotiations on settlements and Jerusalem until future talks on a permanent peace accord.

But Dr. Shaath said: "We have a tacit commitment not to grow, not to build, not to build new settlements."

He said this applied to settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where more than 120,000 Israelis live among nearly two million Palestinians, but not to settlements in the "greater Jerusalem" area.

"On the question of Jerusalem, particularly when you add the question of East Jerusalemites participating in the vote and you add questions of functional authorities in East Jerusalem to run Palestinian institutions, there is a deal," Dr. Shaath said. He did not elaborate.

The self-rule agreement says Palestinians in East Jerusalem can vote and run in elections for a Palestinian self-rule council.

But it does not spell out who will administer East Jerusalem during the interim period.

The Israeli who negotiated the secret pact said Friday the spirit enshrined in it would help the one-time arch enemies overcome countless problems on the way to comprehensive peace.

"I think the potential problems

are countless," said Uri Savir, director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, who led secret contacts in Norway with PLO officials on mutual recognition and Palestinian self-rule.

"I think what is important is not to understand that there will be problems, but to understand that we will tackle them together in a different spirit than until now," Mr. Savir said.

There is a desire to solve problems by cooperation rather than conflict," he added.

Israeli journalists, reflecting public anxiety that the PLO might not keep its word, repeatedly asked the reserved Savir on Friday if he truly believed the PLO had recognised Israel's right to exist and had renounced violence.

"Well, it will take many of us a lot of time to believe that — more than just a document... (but) the document is proof that there is a deep desire to change, yes," Savir said.

Norway arranged at least 14 secret meetings between the PLO and Israel to achieve the accords.

Mr. Savir said those personal contacts had convinced him the deal was solid.

"I think the change was deep, it was a painful change. They told us every so often listen, this is painful to us, this is almost impossible," he added.

"We are willing to give (them) at least the credit that this is a true change," he said.

Mr. Savir said the breakthrough with the Palestinians could be the catalyst to a comprehensive Middle East peace.

"I think now others will try to catch up — both those who want peace (and) those who want to beat the peace process. I think they'll find out that it's better to join in than to beat it," the negotiator said.

Hourani quits PLO Executive Committee

TUNIS (R) — Abdullah Hourani said Saturday he was resigning from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee in protest against the peace deal with Israel.

Mr. Hourani, head of the PLO's Cultural Department, is the fifth member of the 18-member Executive Committee to resign in the past two months.

Mr. Hourani, an independent who spoke against the self-rule agreement at a meeting of the committee on Thursday, said it was at odds with PLO policy set by the Palestine National Council (PNC).

"On this basis I announce ... that I am submitting my resignation from the Executive Committee to the PNC speaker's office for the PNC to decide on it when it next meets," Mr. Hourani said in a statement.

He said he would not attend Executive Committee meetings until the PNC met and he called for an urgent meeting of the council to decide on the peace agreement.

He said that in the meantime Palestinians should remain united and refrain from violence against each other.

Mr. Hourani told Reuters that Mr. Arafat had negotiated with Israel behind the back of the Executive Committee and had presented the agreement as a fait accompli for it to accept or reject.

On Friday, hardline Palestinian leaders to Yasser Khaled of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Abdul Rahman Mallokh of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) announced their resignations in protest.

Hour formalises resignation

In Beirut, the PLO's longtime representative in Lebanon, Shafiq Al Hout, said on Saturday he was resigning his seat on the Executive Committee and his post in Lebanon in protest against the self-rule deal.

Mr. Hout, 61, withdrew from the Executive Committee last month but said at the time he would not formally quit as committee members are elected by the PNC and only it accept resignations.

Mr. Hout said on Friday that Palestinians were in shock at the speed of the accord, which stipulates that talks with Israel on a final settlement continue during a five-year interim period, and he predicted the pact faced a tough test in the years ahead.

"In my opinion the price (won from Israel) was not enough. It is not convincing," Mr. Hout told Reuters.

"The future of the refugees, sovereignty and the right of self-determination will only be discussed three years after the declaration (of principles). So then we have three years of anxiety followed by two years of negotiations," said Mr. Hout, who still has his home in Jaffa which he left in 1948.

Darwish urges unity

Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, who resigned from the PLO leadership last month, said on Saturday he had reservations about the peace deal with Israel but urged Palestinians to unite behind it.

"Given that the draft has been endorsed by the PLO's institutions, I call on all Palestinian organisations to contribute towards making this experiment a success," he told Reuters in an interview.

"If the plan fails, it would have negative results, although I continue to have fears and anxieties (about it)," he added.

Mr. Darwish submitted his resignation from the Executive Committee in August, ostensibly for personal reasons. His resignation was widely seen as a protest at the way PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was rushing to make peace with Israel.

On Saturday he said he would not resume his place in the committee but he could not keep away from political activity.

"I will remain close to the Palestinian leadership and for President Arafat I feel only deep respect and admiration for his political courage," he added.

Mr. Darwish said that despite the need for unity opponents of the peace agreement, which Mr. Arafat will sign in Washington on Monday, should remain free to express their opinions.

"But for the sake of the national interest we must all enter this new trial together ... the decision is now binding on all and the opposition must oppose from within the agreement."

"Establishing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho can in no way form a beginning to establishing an independent Palestinian state on any part of liberated Palestinian land, as the Palestine National Council 1988 resolution stipulated," he said.

COLUMN

Flemish nationalists boo Japanese, Belgian royals

ANTWERP, Belgium (AFP) — Emperor and empress of Japan got a close look at Belgium's quarrelsome politics here when they were booed by Flemish militants and treated to an anti-government demonstration. A handful of Flemish militants shouted hostile slogans at Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko as they arrived in this medieval Belgian city here Friday accompanied by Belgium's King Albert II and Queen Paola. Later, they drove past a demonstration of about 40 people, including four parliamentarians of the extreme-right Vlaamse Bloc Party, who were holding up posters and banners calling for an independent Flanders. It was the first negative touch during the trip of the Japanese royal couple since they arrived in Belgium for a four-day state visit Thursday. The militants, members of a rightwing Flemish nationalist movement, shouted slogans such as "Belgium — explode" and "amnesty" as the royal motorcade passed the "Lion Of Flanders" Cafe, a well-known nationalist haunt. They were identified as members of "The Committee For Flanders Our Fatherland," a movement which wants Dutch-speaking Flanders to secede from French-speaking Wallonia. The shouts of "amnesty" related to demands that full civil rights be restored to the survivors of collaboration, mainly Flemish, with the Nazis in World War II.

Attorney quits Jackson case

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Civil rights attorney Gloria Allred says she is no longer the lawyer for the 13-year-old boy whose molestation allegations prompted the police to investigate pop star Michael Jackson. "I no longer represent the child," Ms. Allred said. She refused to comment further or answer questions. Ms. Allred announced at a packed news conference in Beverly Hills last week that she had taken on the case, calling her young client a "courageous child" who deserved "to be safe, to be protected and to have his day in court." Jackson has denied molesting the boy and has not been charged with any crime. A lawyer and a private investigator who works for Jackson have said the allegation was made after the entertainer refused a \$20 million extortion demand by the boy's father. Meanwhile, Actress Brooke Shields, a close friend of Michael Jackson, said Friday she did not believe the child sex abuse allegations against the pop superstar. "He's never done anything to hurt anybody and I just want it to be over for him," Shields said in an interview with Television New Zealand. Jackson was "very painful" by the allegations, Shields said. "He's a delightful person ... He's a real gentleman. He has lovely family and the people that I've met that he is close to are lovely. He's very pained by it, he's very unhappy and very sad." Shields is in New Zealand for a film commercial.

Jackson vows Fukuoka

FUKUOKA (R) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson, dogged by allegations of child sex abuse, appeared at pains to show his gentle and vulnerable side at a concert in western Japan. Several times he appeared to weep during sentimental numbers, but Jackson aficionados who followed the tour through Bangkok, Singapore and Taiwan said it was part of the act. The performance included live video of Japanese fans in the sold-out Fukuoka Dome Stadium brandishing banners attesting to their faith in the 35-year-old singer. "We just can't stop loving you," one hand-painted sign read, quoting a Jackson ballad. "We believe you're read another. The press is over-reacting (about the allegations), but I believe he's innocent." 31-year-old office worker Hitomi Okanaka said. The show's finale featured small children dressed in native costumes led by Jackson carrying a Japanese toddler in a kimono around a gigantic globe balloon. The song was Heal The World.

U.N. Headquarters to suspend tours

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Guided tours of United Nations Headquarters in New York will be suspended indefinitely from Sept. 18 due to security concerns, a spokesman for the U.N. chief said. "The way the tour is being conducted needs to be revised," said Ahmad Fawzi, a spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. "The routes will be more strictly controlled."

Serbs, Croats battle, ignore U.N. appeal

ZAGREB (R) — Rebel Serbs and Croatian troops fought on in southern Croatia Saturday, ignoring U.N. warnings that the violence could threaten the peace process in former Yugoslavia.

Croatian radio reported that the towns of Jaminica and Sisak near Karlovac, south of Zagreb, came under fire on Saturday, while the coastal town of Zadar reported 40 shells impacting in the space of 30 minutes.

On Friday, Serb guns unleashed a barrage on Karlovac, some 30 kilometres south of Zagreb, killing seven people and wounding 30, in retaliation for the loss of three Serb-held villages near Gospić in a Croat assault on Thursday.

Gospić itself, some 45 kilometres inland from the Adriatic coast, was also reported by Croatian radio to be under artillery attack on Saturday.

"Intensive fighting is going on," Colonel Kostja Novakovic, a spokesman for rebel Serbs in the Krajina enclave, told a Reuters correspondent.

Fighting was also reported in Bosnia, after several days of relative calm, as Muslim-led government forces and local Croats battled for territory in and around Gorazki Vukuf in the centre.

"The level of conflict in the area is rising again," a U.N. spokesman said in Sarajevo.

In Mostar, in southwest Bosnia, Croat forces continued to shell the besieged Muslim quarter, but U.N. relief convoys were able to reach both parts of the divided city with 50 tonnes of supplies each.

In Sarajevo, under Serb siege for 17 months, the U.N. reported clashes on government-held Zuc hill and said Mount Igman, overlooking the capital, was "very tense."

Between 200 and 300 soldiers who seized control of the northern Bosnian town on Friday have closed petrol stations and bars in a crackdown on the black market.

The fighting in Krajina continued despite a plea from U.N. envoy Thorvald Stoltenberg to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to order his troops to withdraw from captured villages.

Mr. Stoltenberg warned the Croatian leader that the outbreak could affect the whole peace process in former Yugoslavia, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

The commander of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia, General Jean Cot, also expressed concern.

Croatian army chief General Janko Bobetko said the aim of Thursday's offensive was to secure Gospić, which had come under fire from rebel Serbs based in the villages.

However, a spokesman for the Serb Krajina army, Colonel Kostja Novakovic, told a Reuters correspondent in their Knin headquarters that the Croat assault was the second phase of an effort to reestablish links between north and south Croatia.

Izetbegovic in S. Arabia

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said Saturday he was counting Saudi Arabia's international influence to help his Muslim people in their battle for survival in the former Yugoslavia.

He said he was ready to resume stalled peace talks with Bosnia's Serb and Croat adversaries.

"My visit ... comes within the framework of the strength and standing of the kingdom," said Mr. Izetbegovic in a statement to the official Saudi Press Agency.

Accompanied by his vice president, Ejup Ganic, the Bosnian leader arrived in the Saudi summer capital late Friday after a flight from New York, where he had conferred with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Iran: No precondition for talks with UAE

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran said Saturday that it was ready to receive a senior official from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for negotiations on an island dispute, but stressed that it would not accept any preconditions.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by state radio, said Iran "would not accept any claims" from the UAE as preconditions for talks on the disputed islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb in the Gulf.

"It is their choice whether they want to come or not," he said referring to a decision by UAE to cancel a visit here next week by its minister of state for foreign affairs.

A UAE spokesman said on Friday that Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan's trip had been cancelled because the "UAE is convinced that there is no desire by the Iranian side to ensure the success of the visit."

Iran Wednesday slammed the UAE over repeating its claim on the islands in a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh earlier this week, and stressed they would remain part of Iranian territory.

The last round of negotiation between Tehran and Abu Dhabi on the islands, which was held in the UAE last September, ended in failure after Iran insisted to limit talks to Abu Musa.

Abu Musa had been jointly administered by Iran and the UAE since 1971. But ownership has been in dispute since last September, when Iran moved to take full control.

Iran's foreign ministry said in a statement Tuesday: "These islands are Iranian and will remain Iranian. The Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow any country to let political games overshadow the region's stability and collective security."

Iraq-U.N. talks end with arms pact still in limbo

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. and Iraqi officials ended a week of intensive disarmament talks without an agreement but cautiously optimistic of progress towards a deal that eventually would allow Iraq to sell oil freely.

Key differences remain, however. Iraq wants a United Nations oil embargo lifted as soon as arms inspectors are satisfied that it has scrapped all its dangerous weapons.

The U.N. Special Commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons insists that a long-term monitoring programme designed to ensure Baghdad does not re-acquire banned arms must be implemented before it can recommend sanctions be lifted.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali late on Friday conferred with the chief Iraqi negotiator, General Amir Rasheed, director of Baghdad's Military Industrial Authority. U.N. sources said he sent a personal message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein but they would not reveal its contents.

Rolf Ekeus, the Swedish head of the U.N. commission, has threatened not to continue the crucial weapons talks, expected to resume in Baghdad in October, unless Iraq activates U.N. surveillance cameras installed at two missile sites near Baghdad.

The cameras were put in place but not turned on after a standoff between Iraq and the United Nations in June which brought a threat of force from the Security Council.

Gen. Rasheed said Iraq had considered the cameras part of the long-term monitoring programme but now decided they were just a technical issue. He said he foresaw no problem in activating them but needed approval first from his government.

Mr. Ekeus said the United Nations could finish its exhaustive analysis of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction by December if Iraq keeps promises to provide all

outstanding information.

Mr. Ekeus also said he would not be in a position to declare Baghdad's compliance with Gulf war ceasefire resolutions for at least six months.

Such a declaration is needed before the Security Council can lift the ban on Iraqi oil exports.

During talks with Mr. Ekeus over the past two weeks, Gen. Rasheed promised to provide all outstanding information about Iraq's foreign weapons suppliers and weapons production.

The existing stage of defining prohibited (weapons) capabilities could be ended by the end of December 1993," Mr. Ekeus told a news conference.

But Iraq is still standing firm in the dispute over U.N. terms for ensuring it does not rebuild its military programme. The United Nations wants to arrange long-term monitoring to check on Iraqi compliance with bans on producing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Mr. Ekeus wants to begin that monitoring immediately and continue it for six months before certifying Iraqi compliance to the Security Council. Iraq could then qualify for lifting the oil embargo.

Iraq, however, does not want to begin the long-term monitoring until after it receives a clean bill of health on its existing weapons and receives the Security Council's approval to resume oil shipments.

Mr. Ekeus said that during the talks, Iraq provided new information about chemical and missile production facilities and suppliers. Gen. Rasheed told reporters: "There are only a few gaps and these will be solved."

Mr. Ekeus is hoping to fill those gaps during a visit to Baghdad in October but said he would not go unless Iraq allows the United Nations to turn on the monitoring cameras at missile sites.

The sanctions, which have caused considerable hardship to the Iraqi people as well as the country's economy, were im-

posed in August 1990 shortly after Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait. The troops were driven out during the 1991 Gulf war.

Under a ceasefire resolutions in April 1991 Iraq must destroy and disclose the sources of its nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons. The special commission would then recommend that the Security Council lift the embargo on exports, including oil.

Sanctions on imports to Iraq are linked to compliance with a host of other demands, ranging from human rights to recognition of the border with Kuwait.

After three years of suffering under a stringent trade embargo, diplomats believe Iraq has shown increasing willingness to compromise and reveal data.

Gen. Rasheed told a news conference he thought all outstanding problems — the data Mr. Ekeus was seeking on weapons and suppliers as well as plans for the ongoing monitoring — could be settled by the end of November.

But he said the Security Council should lift the embargo on oil sales or at least assure Iraq it was willing to do so before monitoring plans could be implemented.

But there is little chance he will get any such assurances from the council.

The Iraqi general made it clear his government was apprehensive about ongoing U.N. demands without any indication that the embargo would be lifted. "We cannot just continue implementing actions," he said.

Mr. Ekeus in the past months has had private talks with American, British and French officials in an effort to get assurances they would lift the embargo once he is satisfied Iraq has complied with all weapons demands.

Some U.S. officials fear that they would have no control over Iraq in implementing other resolutions once the oil embargo is lifted.